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SOCCER WEEKLY

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It's Finals Time!

Centre spread special Finals Preview

This weekend four teams start on the road which could lead to the Grand Final. Seen here are the captains of the five teams which were in contention. Top left is Andy Harper of Marconi, centre Adelaide City's Alex Tobin, bottom left Paul Trimboli of South Melbourne. At right are the captains of the teams which battled for the remaining top 6 spot, as a tribute to their achievements. Top is seen Andrew Marth Melbourne Knights on field general, with Gareth Naven the Perth Glory leader.

Falcons and Cosmos reprieved but what about the longer term?

By BOB BROOKS

Gippsland Falcons the club from Victoria's Latrobe Valley and about 140 kms east of Melbourne along with the team from the national capital, Canberra Cosmos, on Friday April 11 heard of their admittance to next season's Ericsson Cup.

Previously they had had their individual applications for admission to the competition rejected by Soccer Australia.

It remains to be seen if the Falcons can attract at least a third of the locals who signed a petition in favour of retaining the club. They then will have crowds in excess of 5,000 at Falcons Park, which is a survival and growth number.

A major challenge is that since the electricity industry de-regulation in Victoria, the population has declined in the Latrobe Valley. Realistically they may only have a population of 150,000 that they can draw on. How do they aim for full time professionalism? Many of their current players live in Melbourne.

From the centre of the Victorian State capital to Morwell, the administrative centre of the Latrobe Valley, is 140kms. The western and northern suburbs of Melbourne are the hub of Soccer from where it is even further to Morwell. Surely this has to be addressed?

Also, if players simply arrive at Falcons Park every second weekend for a game, how can the local population have any empathy with them?

Newcastle struggles to gain a 6,000 plus attendance from a claimed population base of 500,000. However, if some success came their way then probably 10,000 would go along to Breakers Stadium.

Canberra's crowds have declined alarmingly over the last two years. One recent game had a handul of spectators in Bruce Stadium. However, the team has lanuished in last spot. The question of whether or not the nation's capital also has a declining population is an interesting one.

The policy of the Howard government is to reduce the size of the Public Service. Canberra is essentially a town of Public Servants. Therefore the number of potential attendees at Canberra's games is reducing.

If the aussie rules administrators re-locate one of their Melbourne clubs to Canberra, and given the desire of people to associate with a successful sports team, then the Cosmos will probably continue to struggle.

Of course if the Cosmos Club management could offer University scholarships to potential players at ANU or Canberra University, then they should be able to attract interstate team members.

The population of Parramatta City, the City of Blacktown and the Hills districts of the north western Sydney conurbation, far exceed the 300,000 of the ACT. Why was the Parramatta Eagles application rejected? After all successful clubs are run by the Eagles, Blacktown City Demons and Parramatta Eels rugby league club.

It is true the ACT Soccer Federation, with about 10,00 registered players, is a firm supporter of Canberra Cosmos. By the same token the two Associations of Granville with over 8,000 players and Blacktown with 6,000 are a solid, supportive base for a Parramatta based team.

That team would definitely be playing at the excellent Parramatta Stadium facilty. The Eagles regularly enjoyed crowds of 4,000 at their modest Melita Stadium and the Demons also 4,000 when these clubs were in the national league.

If a combined effort couldn't emulate Perth Glory it would be a surprise.

Canberra will remain in the national league if for no other reason than politics. There is a plan to upgrade Bruce Stadium to FIFA requirements of an all seater facility. The capacity is supposedly going to be 40,000. The original set up was provided by Federal Government funds, which comes from taxes - yours and mine.

Where the development finance for a 40,000 seater Stadium will come from hasn't been made clear, however Canberra is eager to be selected as a venue for at least a preliminary group in the 2000 Olympics Football tournaments men's and women's competitions. Therefore Bruce must be upgraded.

The Raiders rugby league team is desperate to play in an upgraded stadium, Soccer can be the way for them to have their want without the financial contribuion from that code.

When the upgrade has happened then Soccer could become expendable but the rival code will have their super stadium. Soccer - that can be played at Seiffert Oval in Queanbeyan! As it will be next season while Bruce Stadium undergoes development.

There is no doubting the hardworking Soccer people of the national capital.

They have drive and ambition. These attributes alone are insufficient however without crowds pouring through the gates.

Sponsorships are welcome and necessary but the one million dollars or more needed each and every year must come from a variety of sources.

An average paying crowd of 6,000 at each of the 13 home games, assuming each person pays $12 gives an income of $936,000, sponsorships of 250,000 push the income over the one and a quarter million mark.

Major costs are for players, coaches and management staff, which quickly reach $1.1 million. This is even if we allow for the modest number of ten players and the coach and a CEO, Marketing manager, Publicity officer, office administrator and a clerk are, as all being full time.

The costs of ground hire, travel and accomodation, kits and uniforms must be added to the total, at a cost of about $200,000.

It is certainly expensive to run a national league team effectively. The days of part time, amateurish set ups in Soccer 's premier league competition are rapidly drawing to an end.

Record Holders say Goodbye

Collingwood Warriors, (pictured below) the one season wonders, have flown off into oblivion.

However, they have probably achieved a World Record. On October 6, 1996 they won the Johnnie Walker Cup, beating Marconi Fairfield 1-0 at Melbourne's Lakeside Stadium.

Leicester City have just won its equivalent, the League Cup, in England.

Now, in the same season that they had their name engraved on that trophy, Collingwood are to disappear, probably never to rise again. This surely is unique in the World Game.

Maybe they can follow Damian Mori into the Guinness Book of Records. Mori scored the fastest goal ever recorded for Adelaide City.

The Warriors demise has been seen only once before in the National League. Sydney City vapourised in 1983 - part way through the season. The masterly City had won back to back NSL championships in the two previous years.

Collingwood was supposed to be an offshoot of the aussie rules club with the same name. A club with the biggest following of any sports team in Australia; thousands turn up for the Magpies training sessions.

However, the Warriors were built on the base of Heidelberg, and they never managed to shake off their ethnic origins.

The team opened their Ericsson Cup campaign with a 3-0 victory over reigning champion Melbourne Knights, before an encouraging home crowd of 13,000. They ended it with a 0-2 reversal against Brisbane Strikers.

The team started at Victoria Park, home of Collingwood, but became homeless and ended their final Melbourne game before a miserably low turnout of 500 at Olympic Park.

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Sub Editor leaves the chair

After almost exactly twelve months ***Henry Wizgier*** is vacating the Sub Editor's chair to return to England for family reasons.

Henry assures us that he will still maintain his association with **ABSW** by submitting articles from England It is to be hoped that they continue to have their usual incisive argument and analysis.

It has been a pleasure to have Henry on the team and we hope to see him back in Australia, in the future.

Aidan Ormond has taken over the important Sub Editor's position. He is another of the people steeped in Soccer. Aidan, in fact played Premier League in Victoria with Frankston City and Croydon City. He was a youth player with Victorian schoolboys and Prahran Slavia, a year after Paul Wade.

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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Knights end thoughts of Glory

Melbourne Knights 3 By DWYGHT TUFFNELL **Perth Glory 1**

Melbourne Knights spoiled Perth Glory's hopes of a first up finals appearance with an intense 3-1 win at Knights Stadium on Sunday night.

The resurgent Knights now meet South Melbourne in a huge derby match at home next Sunday.

Sadly for Perth, the dream of reaching the play-offs in their first season was ruined by the Knights. Glory was reduced to ten men in the 53rd minute when Paul Strudwick, controversially, received his marching orders after picking up a second yellow card.

Coach Gary Marocchi said that was the incident that swung the game the Knights way. "That decision by the referee turned the course of the game," was all a devastated Glory coach, Gary Marocchi, would say on the matter.

Perth started like a side detemined to get the three points, and not just settling for the draw that would have got them to the finals.

After tearing the Knights apart in the opening minutes, they took the lead with a fine goal from Anthony Carbone on 10 minutes.

Carbone received the ball from Scotty Miller, then exposed a couple of defenders for pace before firing past Joe Didulica.

The home team were nearly level a minute later when Lubo Lapsansky's cross was headed onto the bar by Ice Kutlesovski.

There was some bad news for Lapsansky. Despite playing one of his best games of the season, he picked up a yellow card and is now suspended for next week's game.

The Knight began to come into the game more and more and they should have scored in the 34th minute when Tom Pondeljak stabbed Adrian Cervinski's cross wide.

Cervinski was a surprise selection. He didn't train all week but passed a late fitness test and had to play with a painkilling injection.

Pondeljak made amends for his earlier miss with the equaliser right on the stroke of half time.Cervinski again crossed for the midfielder and this time he made no mistake, slotting past Glory's Robert Zabica.

Then came the incident that infuriated the Perth camp: the sending off of Paul Strudwick.Strudwick, booked in the first half, was involved in what seemed an innocuous challenge with Andrew Marth.

Marth had to leave the field with a bloodied nose, while Strudwick copped his second yellow.The Knights took advantage of this and scored just six minutes later.

Pondeljak scored again, with the help of the dangerous Lapsansky.

He charged the ball down from a Glory defender before passing perfectly for Pondeljak to blast beyond Zabica.

Cervinski scored the third goal two minutes from time, via the penalty spot, after substitute Dale Wingell halted the progress of Kutlesovski inside the area..

A crowd of about 10,000 witnessed the spectacle at Knights Stadium, a crowd that the Knights are hoping to improve on for next week's crunch match against South Melbourne.

Knights coach Ian Dobson is looking forward to the challenge, but concedes there are a few injury worries.

"We had Adrian Cervinski and Ante Kovacevic playing with painkilling injections, and Ransford Banini wasn't 100% fit."

On the brighter side, Dobson expects defender David Cervinski to be in reckoning for selection this week.

Adrian Cervinski: Converted a penalty to complete the scoring.

Knights: Didulica, Nastevski, Markovski, Marth, Tasevski, Lapsansky, Kutlesovski, Pondeljak, Kovacevic, Banini (Duzel 66), A.Cervinski.
Glory: Zabica, C.Naven, Wilkinson, Buljubasic, G.Naven (Vukmirovic 87), Miller, McVittie (D.Wingell 83),

Scorers: KNIGHTS: Pondeljak (45, 59) Cervinski (88 pen) GLORY:. Carbone 1(0)
Yellow Cards: KNIGHTS Lapsansky (38), Nastevski (68) GLORY: Strudwick (26), C.Naven (44), Miller (60), Wilkinson (85), Wingell 88m.
Red Cards : Strudwick (53)
POY: 3 - Podenljak (MK), 2 - Lapsansky (MK), 1 - Carbone (PG)
Referee: S.Micallef
Crowds: 10,000

Falcons do the double

By GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Strikers 2 Gippsland Falcons 3

Player-coach Frank Farina refused to draw any semi final negatives after an understrengthen Brisbane Strikers were lampooned 3-2 by Gippsland Falcons at Sunscorp Stadium on Sunday night.

It was the second time this season, the league battlers had the wood on the glamour Brisbane team after Farina's men went down 1-nil in the first round clash.

"It wasn't a game for the purist, but we had our chances to win but didn't put the ball into the net," Farina said.

"I thought we showed a lot of character to come from two goals down to draw level.

"If anything the result will only make us more determined for the finals as we know all the hard work is still ahead."

Farina rested brilliant youngster Kasey Wehrman who played with the Queensland Academy side in the curtain-raiser and had Nick Meredith on the subs bench, as both were only a yellow card off suspension.

Danny Wright also withdrew with a minor back complaint but all three appear certain to return for the major semi final against Sydney United at Suncorp Stadium in a fortnight.

"Kasey would have missed two games had he played and got a card and it wasn't worth risking Nick who also was close to the points," Farina said.

The match offered few highlights in the first half hour until Strikers defender Matt Bell gave away a free kick which paved the way for Gippsland's opening goal.

Big defender Manny Gotis strolled up into the box for the free kick taken by Doug Marcina and couldn't believe his luck when he found ample room to head home past keeper Clint Bolton.

Farina, who was booked in the first half, gave Strikers officials plenty of concern when he surprisingly returned for the second half risking his semi final place had he received a further card.

However, he lasted only ten minutes after the resumption before he was hauled off by assistant coach Peter Tokesi.

Farina had only departed for one minute when Gippsland scored their second goal when Will Hastie made no mistake from close range.

If anyone thought Farina's absence spelled the end for the home side, they were sadly mistaken as the Strikers suddenly focused on the game at hand and notched two goals in the space of five minutes to draw level at 2-all.

Gotis went from hero to villain in the 65th minute when he felled Wayne Knipe in the box enabling Alan Hunter to score from the penalty spot while Sean Cranney, who came to life in the second half, waltzed past three defenders before driving home a powerful left foot shot.

With only six minutes of play left, the match seemed destined for a draw until Strikers defender Craig Williams mistimed a backpass which enabled Gippsland substitute Levent Osman to snatch the winner, after being on the park for only seven minutes.

Manny Gotis: This big defender strolled up into box to head home the Falcons first goal.

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Bell, Hunter, Phillips, Farina (Harris 55), S Cranney, T Cranney, Brown (Brayshaw 60), Knipe, Hews, Williams.
Gippsland Falcons: Kourtis, Marcina, Canosa, Stergiopoulos, Palamaras, Foy, E Masi (L Osman 77), Sekulic, Gotis, Hastie, M Masi.
Scorers:
STRIKERS: Hunter (65 pen), S Cranney (70).
FALCONS: Gotis (29), Hastie (56), Osman (84).
Yellow cards:
Strikers: Farina (16).
Referee: M Breeze.
Crowd: 3,509.
POY: 3-S Cranney (BS), 2-Gotis (GF), 1-Kourtis (GF).

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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Sharks make Marconi struggle

Marconi Fairfield 2 By JOHN ECONOMOS **West Adelaide 2**

Hamilton Thorp, West Adelaide's giant striker, formerly a centre-back, scored two brilliant first half goals last Sunday night at the Marconi Stadium to leave the star-studded Marconi fighting desparately in the second half to earn a 2-2 draw.

Thorp struck terror in the 24th minute when he latched onto a free kick fired in by left wingback Frank Tibaldi. Thorp powered his header in-off the left post to equalise at 1-1.

Marconi had a dream start in the 10th minute when their lanky striker and Man Of The Match Francis Awaritefe drew first blood also with a fine header from a Brad Maloney corner.

Awaritefe's work-rate was one of his very best for Marconi all season proving a constant thorn to Adelaide's defence which had great difficulty containing him. In fact the gangling forward has been one of Marconi's most consistent performers all season.

Craig Foster threatened to increase Marconi's lead when in the 34th minute he exploded into a 40 metre burst upfield tearing to shreds the entire Sharks defence, but his final shot from inside the box was woefully wide.

Pacey striker Sean Babic also threatened four minutes later from right in front when he smashed a vicious rising drive that did just that. It kept rising to ultimately clear the bar.

Having escaped such glaring dangers, West struck back with a lethal sting engineered by Branko Milosevic and ruthlessly executed by Thorp.

Playmaker Milosevic fired a nice through-ball to the left for the youngster who split two Marconi defenders to score with a magnificent, if not classy, strike four minutes before the break to grab the lead for the visitors leaving Marconi to lament their earlier squandered chances.

Only some excellent vision and quick thinking by Marconi's gentle giant goalkeeper Bobby Catlin enabled Marconi to get out of jail in the 56th minute.

Pumping a huge towering 60 metre kick downfield Catlin allowed Babic to sprint 35 metres clear of the defence and shoot past Michael Harkness, West Ad's advancing goalkeeper

Halftime substitute Alex Castro almost regained Adelaide's lead a minute from the bell, firing a snap shot towards the first post, but the alert and safe Catlin clasped the hot missile

West Adelaide's triple central midfielders of Ross Aloisi,Milosevic and Pablo Cardozo, were a joy to watch as they intelligently used the ball

Marconii's articulate skipper Andy Harper reflected: "We played well but a little tardily in execution of our opportunities to capitalise on our good moves, as we were lacking confidence in front of goal."

Meanwhile West Adelaide's always humble coach Adrian Sandtrac stated:"We moved the ball round well as we played possession football but didn't take our chances. Overall a good performance and I felt maybe we taught Marconi a lesson."

Francis Awaritefe: Continued with his excellent contribution to Marconi's season.

Marconi: Catlin, Souris, Stanton, Holst, Harper (McDonald 85), Maloney (Hristodoulou 85), Foster, Zoric (Casserly 46), Robertson, Babic, Awaritefe.
West Adelaide: Harkness, Kokkinoplitis, Hooker, Pezos, Tsekinis, Aloisi, Miilosevic, Cardozo, Tibaldi, Borghetto (Castro 46), Thorp.

Scorers: MARCONI: Awaritefe (10), Babic (56). WEST ADELAIDE: Thorp (24, 41.
Yellow Cards: MARCONI: Robertson (50) and Holst (71). SHARKS: Cardozo (37).
Referee: G.Connelly
Crowd: 6,052.
P.O.Y. 3-Awaritefe (MF) 2-Milosevic (WA), 1-Thorp (WA)

Marconi's coach Manfred Schaefer was quiick to salute Adelaide, stating: "Thorp's second goal was very good, and as far as entertainment value it was a great match to watch. West Adelaide closed us down well and they had an excellent first half even though Sean (Babic) and Craig (Foster) should both have had goals."

Saturday night Marconi face Adelaide City at the Marconi Stadium in leg one of the Preliminary Semi final.

Eight goal farewell

Wollongong Wolves 4 By MIKE DRISCOLL **Collingwood Warriors 4**

Imagine a Soccer match when one team scores four goals and takes the lead four times yet doesn't win.

Wollongong Wolves on Sunday fought back from a goal deficit four times to snatch a 4-4 draw and spoil the farewell party for the now defunct Collingwood Warriors.

Home supporters at Brandon Park have witnessed their share of breathtaking goals, sweeping attacking moves and diabolical defending this season. They saw it all in one game. It must have been contagious for the last round of the NSL produced 34 goals from seven games.

The draw left the Wolves in 10th, while defending champions Melbourne Knights snatched sixth spot and a playoff berth on goal difference from Perth after beating the Glory 3-1.

The Warriors aren't part of the NSL next season after losing the support of major backer, the Collingwood AFL club a few weeks ago. Coach Zoran Matic said before the game he wasn't sure how his team would react to pending extinction. The players' answer: press forward on every occasion, keep attacking and let the defenders worry about themselves.

In truth the Wolves played a similar game and it made for a bonanza of chances, eight goals and some woeful defending. Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said it typified their whole season — something good and something bad.

"If this game had a bearing on us making the top six playoffs. I wouldn't have survived it," he said. Melodramatic yes, but it was a night for palpitations.

The Warriors were ahead on 14 minutes scoring from their first corner. It was a messy goal with midfielder Andy Vlahos on hand after Wollongong failed to clear.

Scott Chipperfield had the Wolves level on 22 minutes with a great left foot drive but Con Boutsianis made it 2-1 for the visitors with one of the goals of the season. Boutsianis curled a free-kick from the edge of the penalty box into the top right hand corner.

Then two goals in a minute before halftime with Noel Spencer scoring his first senior goal for the Wolves for 2-2, and the Warriors Paul Della Rocca, again from a corner.

Wolves skipper Matt Horsley levelled at 3-3 with a left foot drive in the 57th minute but again just a minute later Collingwood substitute Peter Dilorio made it 4-3.

Sonny Sevin equalised for 4-4 in the 76th minute with a terrific half volley from the edge of the penalty area. Both teams might then have won it with Warriors coming closest when denied by a post.

Eight minutes from fulltime Collingwood's Joe Vrkic was sent off after he and Martin Bourke clashed after a tackle. It was only a foot-note to a bizarre finale.

Sunday night's result means Theodorakopoulos, who has been re-signed for next season has a coaching record of 10 wins, 12 draws, 20 losses with the club.

He's already begun negotiating with a couple of experienced quality players, including the Warriors Kimon Taliadoros, who considered coming to the Wolves this season.

Matic felt his side should have won but was pleased with the players' commitment in their final game.

"The boys gave their all and scoring four goals you expect to win," he said.

"It's been that sort of season, ups and downs and we had a bit of both tonight."

Sonny Sevin: Rounded off a great season for him by scoring the wolves final goal of the season.

Wollongong: Brodbeck, Sinozic, Ceccoli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Sevin, Laybutt (Harlock 74), Dimoski (Luff 68), Bourke, Chipperfield, Spencer (Surjan 62).
Collingwood: Juric (Anastasiadis 46), Vrkic, Della Rocca, Davidson, Cerrachio (Catalano 62), Talladira, Vlahos, Boutsianis (Dilorio 40), Talladoros, Tapai, Lozanovski.

Scorers: Wollongong: Chipperfield (22), Spencer (43), Horsley (57), Sevin (76). Collingwood: Vlahos (14), Boutsianis (34), Della Rocca (45), Dilorio (58).
Yellow cards: WOLLONGONG: Bourke (76).
Red card: Collingwood: Vrkic (76).
Referee: G Leverton.
Crowd: 4,396.
POY: 3-Sevin (WC), 2-Tapai (CW), 1-Chipperfield (WC).

Standing ovation for Paul Wade

South Melbourne 3 By JOHN RIGAS **Canberra Cosmos 1**

An emotional Paul Wade walked off the field to a standing ovation from the South Melbourne supporters as his side, Canberra Cosmos, was defeated 3-1 in his final appearance.

Before the game, Wade was presented with a golden boot by South Melbourne for his services to soccer. The presentation was made by Victorian Premier, Mr Jeff Kennett.

"Johnny Warren said if I scored a goal, I should walk off the field. I set one up so that's close enough" Wade said after the game.

"It's been an emotional rollercoaster from 5.00pm today, I haven't felt like this before," a tearful Wade continued.

South Melbourne dominated proceedings with an array of opportunities created.

Goalscoring chances went begging at both ends of the field, with Canberra's John Markovski nearly scoring the goal of the year.

In the 10th minute, Markovski, from the halfway line, saw South keeper Michael Petkovic off his line. The striker was unlucky as Petkovic reacted quickly to tap the ball to safety.

Before Markovski's effort, South Melbourne should have been well in front with David Clarkson and Ivan Kelic missing chances.

In the 17th minute, Young Socceroo Michael Curcija looked certain to open the scoring when he was faced with a one-on-one with Canberra keeper Barney Smith.

Markovski was in a dangerous mood in the first half and - in the 38th minute his strike on goal was cleared off the goal-line by Steve Panopoulos.

Curcija, South's main culprit for missed opportunities, had another chance which went astray, his header flew wide of the post three minutes before half time.

He finally found his scoring touch with an easy goal in the 55th minute.Paul Trimboli saw his shot bounce off the crossbar into the path of Curcija who tapped the ball into the net.

The Lakers increased the scoreline in the 74th minute when a Curcija shot was half cleared, he then pounced on the loose ball to set up Trimboli who placed the ball into an empty net.

Two minutes later a Trimboli through ball was met by Curcija who scored his second from close range.

In the 80th minute Curcija nearly made it a hat trick but was unlucky enough to fire against the bar.

In the 90th minute Canberra got a consolation goal. Fittingly, Wade provided the cross for Peter Buljan to score.

"Everyone's got to retire sometime and it was fitting that he did it here," said Lakers coach Angie Postecoglou.

The Lakers will go into next weeks game against bitter rivals, Melbourne Knights, without defender Nick Orlic who received a yellow card, but they regain Steve Iosifidis and Vaughan Coveny.

Paul Wade: An emotional send off for Caption Socceroo.

Lakers: Petkovic, Orlic, Blatsis, Polak, Panopoulos, Trimboli (Allsopp 77), Damianos, Clarkson (Baser 77), Curcija, Kelic (Petersen 77), De Amicis.
Cosmos: Smith, Dee, Wade (Sorras 90), Kelly, Armstrong, Markovski (Campagna 80), Wilson, Buljan, Grella, Koch, Baxter.
Scorers: LAKERS Curcija (55), Trimboli (74,76). COSMOS: Buljan (90)
Yellow Cards: LAKERS: Orlic (66), COSMOS: Grella (55), Armstrong (62)
POY: 3 - Curcija (SM), 2 - Clarkson (SM), 1 - Damianos (SM).
Referee: M.Shield
Crowd: 7,896

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Thrilling win for Breakers

Newcastle Topper Breakers 4 — UTS Olympic 3

By JAI McDERMOTT

Former UTS Olympic stalwart Robbie Ironside inspired the Topper Breakers to a thrilling 4-3 win at Breakers Stadium last Sunday night. In a match full of goal-mouth incident, the New Zealander scored two goals including the winner with just five minutes remaining.

The passionate early exchanges belied suggestions that the fixture was a 'nothing' game. Both sides adopted an aggressive attacking mood and it was clear the match would entertain the healthy Newcastle crowd.

Veteran striker David Lowe opened the scoring in the 9th minute. When UTS defender Elias Augerinos meekly surrendered possession on the edge of his own penalty area Peter Ritchie was able to drive in a menacing cross. Clayton Zane's miscued strike fell to Lowe and the former Socceroo out-muscled UTS captain David Barrett before squeezing the opener past George Bouhoutsos.

The goal stung the visitors into action. Re-instated Breakers keeper, Liam Baker did well to deny first Scott Baillie and then Raphael Bove after Walter Ardone had hit the foot of the post. Just as the Sydneysiders looked set to draw level though the Novocastrians went further ahead.

Ironside collected the first of his brace when Bouhoutsos failed to clear a Troy Halpin corner. He cold only parry the swinging cross and the Breakers midfielder smashed the loose ball home from a tight angle.

Robbie Ironside: Grabbed the winner against his old club.

Ironside went close again on the stroke of half-time but the home side would have been content to take their two goal cushion into the break.

When play resumed the Breakers again showed vulnerability when defending a lead.

Caretaker UTS coach David Mitchell pulled a goal back with just two minutes of the second half played. When Derek Poimer had a short blocked on the line the former Millwall front man was gifted a regulation tap in to make the score 2-1. Eight minutes later UTS equalised through Socceroo striker Kris Trajanovski. After Bove released him down the right flank he wriggled past two defenders and into the penalty area. With the Newcastle defence split wide open Trajanovski stabbed the ball beyond a stranded Baker and into the far corner.

As in their high scoring win over Marconi a fortnight earlier, the Breakers lapsed in concentration and paid the price. To their credit however they restored their lead just four minutes later.

Glenn Sprod made a penetrating run down the left before finding Lowe at the near post with a low cross. Despite having his own path to goal blocked, Lowe turned brilliantly before providing a neat lay-off for midfielder Craig Sharpley. The former Warringah Dolphin could scarecly have missed from just eight metres out and he made the score 3-2.

In possibly his final game for the Breakers, Lowe turned in a sterling performance. All his guile and cunning was evident and when Kosmina substituted him with minutes remaining the home crowd responded with rapturous applause in appreciation of the stocky player's contribution.

From Sharpley's goal the Breakers should have shut the game down but the plot took yet another twist in the 76th minute. Substitute Steve Refenes surged down the left before whipping a menacing cross into the area.

The ball took a deflection and was met by a rampaging Walter Ardone. His brave volley flew past Baker to again level the scores.

As the match wore on Olyroo Clayton Zane grew in confidence and it was he who played a vital role in the eventual winner. After absorbing a period of sustained pressure UTS could only clear to Craig Sharpley.

The midfielder caught the visitors square in defence with a wonderful ball which released Zane down the right flank. The lanky front man clipped in a dangerous cross which deceived keeper George Bouhoutsos. The UTS custodian failed to grasp the ball down low and only succeeded in spilling it into the path of the onrushing Ironside.

The home crowd erupted as Ironside grabbed the winner. It was a sweet moment for the 29 year old against his old club and his goal ensured Breakers' fans will look forward to next season.

UTS were gallant in defeat and were well served by rising star Brett Emerton. His elegant running from midfield was a constant threat. Coach David Mitchell led by example with a powerful display, showing why he excelled abroad.

Breakers fans mobbed the home side after the match and while purists may shudder at the 4-3 scoreline the Ericsson Cup again showed its ability to entertain and excite.

It was an extra special night for the Newcastle club with the youth team clinching a first ever finals berth with an exciting 5-3 win.

Needing just a point to qualify for the playoff series the Breakers eventually triumphed over a UTS side reduced to eight men after two players and a goalkeeper were sent off.

Greg Smith's young Breakers meet Marconi in next weekend's first semi-final.

Newcastle Topper Breakers: Baker, Pryce, Sprod (Wilson 79), Ritchie, Ironside, Lowe (McGuire 86), Zane, Halpin (Thomas 68), McManus, Sharpley, Austin.

UTS Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Barrett (Ciantar 78), Baillie, Zelic, Ardone, Emerton, Trajanovski, Bove, Augerinos (Refenes 46), Poimer (Tome 73), Mitchell.

Scorers: TOPPER BREAKERS: Lowe (9), Ironside (35, 85), Sharpley (58). OLYMPIC: Mitchell (48), Trajanovski (53), Ardone (76).

Yellow cards: TOPPER BREAKERS: Halpin (41). OLYMPIC: Barrett (30).

Referee: C Diomis.

Crowd: 4,022.

POY: 3-Ironside (NTB), 2-Lowe (NTB), 1-Emerton (UO).

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Adelaide City held by depleted United

Adelaide City 1 — Sydney United 1

Socceroo goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac saved a penalty as Ericsson Cup minor premiers, Sydney United, grabbed a 1-1 draw against Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday night.

Kalac was forced to make a series of first half saves as City exerted most of the pressure on a depleted Sydney United team.

Pumas coach Branko Culina opted to rest a number of his star players, such as Kresimir Marusic, Paul Bilokapic, Robert Enes and defender Velimir Kupresak.

Kalac had to advance off his goal-line in the second minute to block a Dino Mennillo shot, but watched as the Zebras striker Michael Brooks snapped the loose ball wide.

Adelaide sweeper Milan Ivanovic surged forward in the seventh minute to release Brooks, but Kalac was able to block his shot from close in. Brooks finally found a way past the keeper in the 24th minute when he deflected home a Mennillo shot for his tenth goal of the season.

United seemed subdued, athough Ante Milicic volleyed just wide in the 26th minute.

Kalac was drawn off his line again in the 37th minute to keep out another Mike Brooks shot, but the deadly Zebra's crowning moment arrived seconds before halftime.

Kalac blocked a Mennillo drive but fouled City's young Socceroo midfielder Kosta Salapasidis in a tussle for the ball, conceding a penalty.

Adelaide City captain Alex Tobin powered his spot kick on target but the Socceroo custodian, Kalac , thrust out a hand to keep the ball out.

Milicic proved a thorn for City's defence after halftime and worked the opening for the equaliser.

He crossed with precision for striker David Zdrilic, whose fierce volley was parried by City keeper Jason Petkovic, and United midfielder Aytec Genc was on hand to tuck away the loose ball from close in.

Kalac also blocked a Bradley Hassell shot in the 80th minute to keep the teams even on the score board.

Zeljko Kalac: Received plenty of practice but proved equal to the task.

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Armour, Ivaonvic, Tobin, Costanzo, Hassell, Mennillo, Brooks (Barbaro 70), Brazzale, Salapasidis (Pirone 84), Sabljak.

Sydney United: Kalac, Trajkovski, Babic, Moric, Milicic, Cvetko, Genc, Zdrilic, Plesa (Burns 70), Culina, Didulica.

Scorers: ADELAIDE CITY: Brooks (23). SYDNEY UNITED: Genc (71)

Yellow cards: ADELAIDE CITY: Hassell (82). SYDNEY UNITED: Kalac (45).

Referee: B Hugo.

Crowd: 8,753.

Alex Tobin: His penalty miss denied the Zebras a victory.

Strikers — take a bow

Dear Sir,

Of all the clubs in the finals series, Brisbane is the one I hope wins the prize, ideally at Suncorp and in front of a record crowd after a top class game. It's not that I am a Strikers fan, but I am full of admiration for the efforts of Ian Brusasco and his band of true believers. In a city which is totally indifferent to Soccer (to put it politely), they have persevered and developed the Strikers into the best NSL club ever to come out of QLD.

After Sydney United they are, in my opinion, the best club in the league this year. Since his return home, Frank Farina has become the highest profile Soccer player/personality and now coach in the history of the game in Queensland. In the modern era he is without doubt the best QLD born player by far but I think he may soon be eclipsed by some of his very impressive young charges, Kasey Wehrman to name just one.

Brisbane's small but dedicated Soccer fraternity take a bow. You have achieved much (on the field) in very adverse circumstances and if the 'Gods' will smile on you in May you will thoroughly deserve the success. I only wish there was a way of getting the message through to the people of SE QLD.

Finally, would those mindless letter writers from QLD spare us the tirades about how the ethnics are single handedly keeping the good people of SE QLD from attending Strikers matches at Suncorp. This sort of verbal diarrhoea just does not stand up to close scrutiny.

R Melor,
BONDI, NSW.

Letters to the Editor

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Please include your full address and a day time telephone number. We have to ensure that all correspondents are genuine.

— Editor

"Who, me?"

Best players — marketable products

Dear Sir,

Now that Gippsland Falcons and Canberra Cosmos' position in next season's national league has been confirmed by Soccer Australia, it would hopefully herald an era of stability in our premier competition at least until the year 2000.

In a summer season 26 matches (a 14 team league) has proven to be the best option, given the reality that in the short term most players are, and will be, part-timers, and, that the injection of international matches in the lead up to the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 Sydney Olympics will have some effect on league programmes.

This stability will enable existing national league clubs, and newcomers Carlton, to plan with certainty for their future in the league. It will also assist in cementing existing sponsorship and hopefully attract greater interest from leading businesses and the media alike.

Soccer Australia's concern over future viability of the Falcons and Cosmos was mainly because of those clubs failure to attract greater local patronage at home matches. The inability to draw spectators in sufficient numbers on a regular basis by our national league clubs is the prime reason why commercial free-to-air TV and radio stations have continued to shy away from any substantial coverage. And why should they change?

Apart from newcomers Perth Glory, none of the other clubs can claim continuous increased membership through any strong marketing strategies. Given that many published crowd attendances in this current and in previous seasons are probably inflated, clubs other than Perth Glory whether in good form or bad, would seemingly only be able to count on a stagnating number on any one day.

At best I would suggest crowd figures average at around 4,500 for South Melbourne, UTS Olympic and Adelaide City; 4,000 at Sydney United, Brisbane and Marconi; 3,500 at Melbourne Knights, Newcastle and West Adelaide and 3,000 at Wollongong. With an average crowd of 2,000 or less, it was little wonder that the Falcons and Cosmos were under the SA microscope and it is why with the apparent exception of Perth our game does not command a regular top spot in the sports pages of our newspapers or in the electronic media, SBS excepted.

Reader Mr J Drajn's comments (letters, 15 April) reflect the blinkered view why our great game has not gained increasing national exposure. No wonder our best talent seek greener pastures overseas, where in addition to the obvious money incentives, they can receive better recognition for their efforts, which in turn realise further career earnings.

When will someone at SA and those at club management level recognise that our best players are the game's most marketable product?

Peter Saninno,
SEAFORD, VIC.

Culling dead wood

Dear Sir,

A favourable opportunity recently arose for 'axeman' David Hill to chop off some more dead wood which is sapping the National League. Following the uprooting of Parramatta Eagles, Heidelberg and Melbourne SC, we again have a similar situation where two clubs Gippsland Falcons and Canberra Cosmos, are just taking up valuable space.

Commonsense tells us that the Ericsson Cup League is too big, or to put it another way, there is just not enough talent to go around 14 clubs. Can anyone argue against that fact?

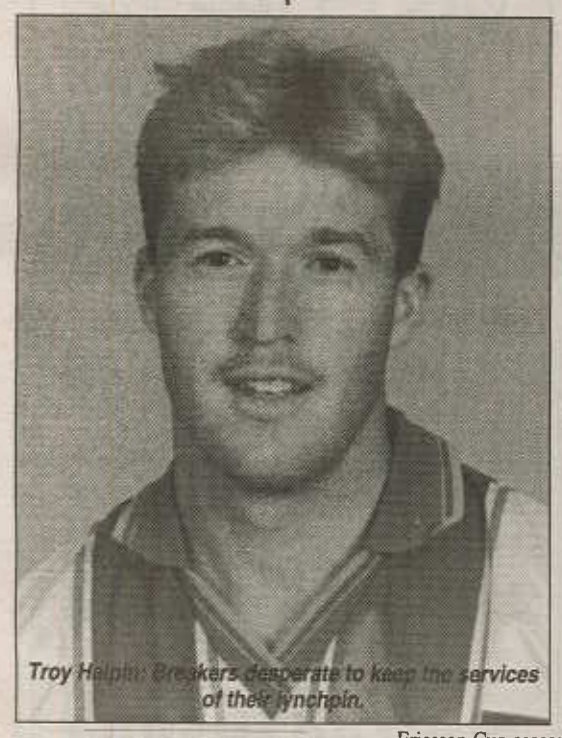
But Hill missed an ideal opportunity to prune the tree to a more manageable and realistic 12 teams by getting rid of two more bits of dead wood who quite frankly contribute very little if nothing to the Australian game.

Showing televised matches from their respective grounds with their paltry crowds, does nothing for the improvement of the game whatsoever.

In fact it is having a detrimental effect, because imagine how much better the average crowd figures for the entire National League would look it wasn't necessary to include the miserable attendances of Bruce Stadium and Falcons Park?

Dave Winters
Dee Why,NSW.

Highs and lows in Newcastle



Troy Halpin: Breakers desperate to keep the services of their lynchpin.

By JAI MCDERMOTT

This being the last news column for the Breakers Ericsson Cup season it is perhaps an appropriate time to recall some of the highs and lows in the Novocastrians' campaign:

HIGHS — Troy Halpin. The new Breakers captain has had a wonderful year. Kosmina shaped his side around the young midfielder and his attacking instincts produced some magical moments. Though Newcastle's lynchpin is not a one man team, the Novocastrians will be desperate to retain his services.

Newcastle maintained their tradition of troubling the league's top sides. They were particularly potent at home with the 3-1 win over minor premiers Sydney United and the 5-2 thumping of Marconi the most memorable results.

The Breakers youth team are poised to become the club's first team into the national league finals.

The Breakers defence looked decidedly brittle in pre-season with a lack of experience a potential problem. New recruits Matt Austin and Todd McManus defied predictions and with Shane Pryce in consistent form the youngsters form the platform for the Breakers in 97/8.

LOWS — A run of draws in the first round virtually ruined the Breakers semi-finals chances. With three points for a win the Novocastrians habit of letting sides back in games, seriously hampered their campaign.

David Lowe would rather forget his Ericsson Cup season. An early injury saw him miss most of the campaign and the Breakers missed his influence. The veteran forward has given Newcastle great service since his return from Sydney. In what is perhaps his final Ericsson Cup season Lowe deserved a more fitting swansong.

The Breakers away form continued to hamper their Ericsson Cup campaign. A 2-0 win in Perth stands as a highlight but their solid home form was not enough for a top half finish.

☛ With the Breakers senior side's season at an end, it is again time for reflection and debate on achievements and failures. Going into the final round Newcastle could finish eleventh at best. Early season expectations would have been to finish mid-table with a top six placing a bonus. While unexpected factors like the Perth Glory phenomenon must be taken into account, the Breakers will again be counted among the competitions under-achievers when all is said and done.

The Novocastrians open, exciting brand of football at times belied their lowly position. Perhaps it could even be blamed for some regrettable results. A first round run of draws will be the obvious focus when the coaching staff sit down to take stock.

The Breakers of 1996/97 were full of fresh talent, with old hands Robbie Ironside and David Lowe offering the influence of experience. An early injury virtually put paid to Lowe's season and his absence showed. However, the Newcastle youngsters proved they could compete with the best in the Ericsson Cup. When Kosmina's young side gain the experience to grind out results they will surely be a real force in Australia's premier Soccer competition.

☛ Argentine sportswear giant Topper ends its first year as sponsor of the Breakers at the close of the season. Discussions regarding the future of Topper's involvement are currently underway. The attacking football and professional club infrastructure which first attracted the Breakers leading sponsor remain, and one would expect the association to continue.

☛ As the Ericsson Cup finals loom again it has become a tense time in Newcastle, but not for John Kosmina's team. At the time of writing the Topper Breakers youth league side needed a point from their last game against UTS Olympic to make the finals of the Les Scheinflug Cup.

Greg Smith's young charges looked a chance to become minor premiers two weeks ago but successive losses to title contenders Marconi and Sydney United placed the Novocastrians in a do-or-die situation in the final round.

A mixture of injuries and bad luck have conspired to challenge the Breakers finals berth. With three key players absent over the past month Newcastle would have been cursing United coach Branko Culina last week. A perilous yellow card count against Socceroo midfielder Robbie Enes saw him play in the youth game against the Breakers ... and score a crucial goal from a set piece.

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AROUND THE CLUBS

TARINGA BOUNCE BACK IN QUEENSLAND

By GLENN DAVIS

Taringa Rovers bounced back from a shock midweek 1-0 Queensland Cup loss to Gold Coast Gamblers by humiliating Beenleigh 5-0 in their Fourex League clash on Saturday night.Taringa were the unlucky club drawn from the Fourex League clubs to play the Gold Coast in a home and away Queensland Cup qualifier.

Beenleigh had thrashed Rochedale 5-2 the previous week in the Fourex League, so it was a great result for Taringa coach, John Ogden.

"Our minds weren't on the job when we played the Gold Coast," he said.

"I think the boys were thinking more about the Beenleigh game, but hopefully we can still qualify for the Cup if we beat the Gamblers next time.

"It won't be easy playing them at home, but we've got a few players to come back into the Cup team."

Ogden, who has reshaped Taringa this year with only three players left from last season, has put a special polish on Taringa - they have scored an impressive ten goals in their past two matches.

"We really dominated against Beenleigh and had all the possession," he said.

Taringa raced to a three-nil lead at halftime courtesy of a double from young strikers Glen Kolapk and Des Hughes, before midfielder Darren Hiller and Hughes netted again after the break.

"The boys are playing well, but they know there's a long way to go and there's plenty of depth to cover if players don't perform," he said.

Taringa's young brigade up front have performed very well this season, noted sharpshooter Marc Flemington, who scored 22 goals last season. This year he has been unable to break into the starting line up except for one occasion.

The result sees Taringa jump Beenleigh into second place on the premiership ladder behind Brisbane City, who stayed at the top following a 3-1 win over Coalstars.

For Brisbane City, former Brisbane Strikers players Chris Slater (2) and Damien Waugh put the game out of the reach of the home side, whose solitary reward came from Peter McKendrick.

In other matches, Rochedale Rovers and Bundaberg shared the points in a 1-all draw at Bundaberg, while Brisbane Lions edged out bayside strugglers Wynnum 3-2.

Wynnum, who have been going down by only the odd-goal in recent matches, posted its two goals from Geoff Maltby while Brisbane Lions shared its goals between the in-form Greg DiLosa, Roy Huth and Robbie Pudja.

QLDXXXX League — round 7

Coalstars	1	Brisbane City	3
Beenleigh	0	Taringa Rovers	5
B'Berg Waves	1	Rochedale Rov	1
Wynnum	2	Brisbane Lions	3

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brisbane City	7	5	2	0	12	6	17
Taringa Rovers	7	4	2	1	19	6	14
Brisbane Lions	7	4	1	2	12	8	13
Beenleigh	7	4	0	3	14	13	12
Rochedale Rov	7	3	2	2	15	13	11
B'Berg Waves	7	2	2	3	12	12	8
Coalstars	7	1	1	5	6	18	4
Wynnum	7	0	0	7	8	22	0

SP DIV 1S — round 5

Souths Utd	4	Acacia Ridge	2
Redlands Utd	1	IPSW St Helens	2
Toowoomba Utd	7	Slacks Creek	3
Mt Gravatt	0	Rocklea Utd	0

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Toowoomba Utd	5	5	0	0	23	5	15
Inala City	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
Rocklea Utd	5	2	1	2	8	11	7
Mt Gravatt	5	1	2	2	12	7	5
Slacks Creek	4	1	2	1	13	14	5
Souths Utd	4	1	1	2	10	18	4
IPSW St Helens	4	1	1	2	2	12	4
Redlands Utd	5	0	2	3	4	9	2
Acacia Ridge	4	0	2	2	4	10	2

SP DIV 1N— round 5

Olympic Utd	0	North Star	3
Mitchelton	0	Capalaba 2	
Pine Rivers Utd	8	Grange Thistle	0
The Gap	4	Eastern Subs	0
Albany Creek	3	Newmarket	0

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Pine Rivers Utd	5	3	1	1	18	8	10
Mitchelton	5	3	1	1	15	6	10
North Star	5	3	1	1	14	7	10
Albany Creek	5	2	2	1	11	8	8
The Gap	4	2	1	1	12	6	7
Capalaba	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Eastern Subs	5	2	1	2	10	14	7
Olympic Utd	4	1	1	2	4	11	4
Newmarket	5	0	2	3	6	14	2
Grange Thistle	5	0	1	4	3	21	1

Chesterfield magical mystery tour

By BOB BROOKS

Chesterfield are within 90 minutes of a stunning appearance in the FA Cup Final. Chesterfield an unremarkable town in North Derbyshire which is right on the fringes of the geographical area known as the East Midlands.

A five minute drive and the Derbyshire Peak District starts to show its outstanding natural beauty. Glorious walking country, charming country pubs, magnificent grand houses like Chatsworth. Villages and small towns of grey limestone, fields divided by dry stone walls.

The Romans mined lead in the vicinity and took it back to Rome. The Druids followed the Sun's cycle and the early Christians worshipped in secret places.

If markets are an attraction then Chesterfield has one of the best. However the most interesting feature of the town is the spire on the Parish Church. The timbers used in its construction were not fully seasoned and soon after it was finished, it started to twist. That was hundreds of years ago.

Suddenly, after more than 130 years the local football team Chesterfield FC, known as the 'Spireites', are on the verge of making a mark. They could become the first team from the second division, similar to the old third, to play at Wembley in one of the World's foremost sporting events.

They have one more hurdle to clear. This is the Semi Final replay against the team who cost a small fortune to assemble, and it happens tonight in Sheffield, shown on SBSTV Wednesday evening.

In the first game the underdogs reckon they were denied victory when Jonathon Howard fired in a shot that beat stand in goalie Ben Roberts, cannoned off the underside of the bar and over the line before rebounding into play.

Top line referee David Elleray blew for a foul that took place after the ball had gone over the line. Amazing!

In the player ratings Billy Mercer the Chesterfield keeper was awarded a nine while his opposite number only made six. The gifted Juninho and exciting Italian Fabrizio Ravanelli gained eight each, the same as Mark Williams, Sean Dyche, Kevin Davis and Andy Morris. Who but the most devoted Spireties fans has heard of those four.

The hardy folks of the industrial town can still dream. Maybe their thoughts will be 'if only' after this week but some compiler of an Almanac in Britain, predicted that the Cup Finalists would both begin with a C and play in blue and white. So far Chelsea have a Wembley date and those are Chesterfield's colours.

Here for the fact collector is Chesterfield's record: founded 1866. Their rules of 1871 are still in existence when annual membership was two shillings (20c).

Their first trophy win was the Barnes Cup in 1891. They were on a roll because the next season they retained that Cup and added two more, the Derbyshire Junior Cup and the Sheffield Cup.

September 2, 1899 saw them play their first game in Division 2 which they lost 1-5 to Sheffield Wednesday.

They have spent 10 seasons in the old Division 2, the rest of the time hovering in the lower reaches.

They have won their Division four times and were victorious in the 1980-81 Anglo Scottish Cup. Not a path paved with real triumphs.

Incidentally my Grandad, Dick Butler was an active supporter of the Club.

The crooked spire on Chesterfield's Parish church.

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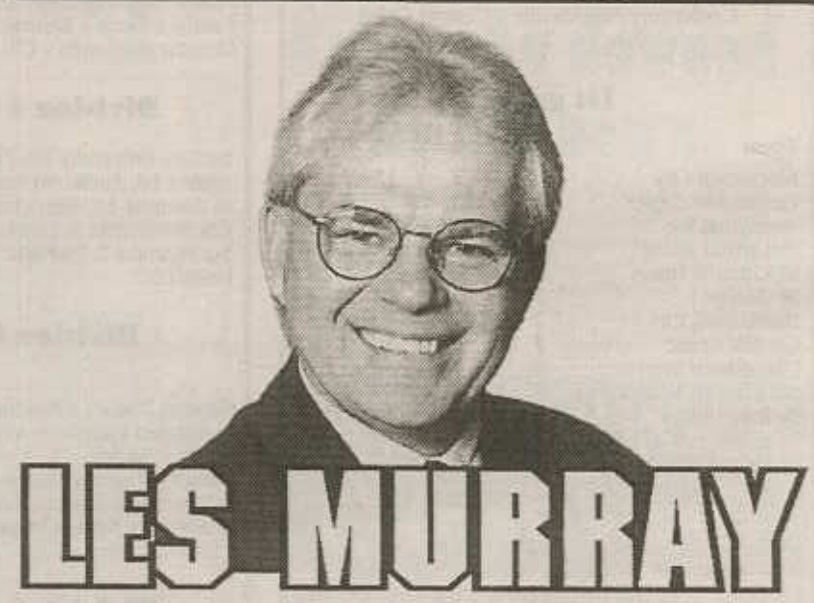

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NSW Soccer Federation

Super League

round six

1st U/21 U/18
Central Coast v Bankstown City
2-0 1-1 3-1
Canterbury Marrickville v St George
2-2 0-2 0-3
Sydney United v Parramatta Eagles
3-2 0-2 1-1
Macarthur Rams v Leichhardt Tigers
0-1 P/P 2-1
Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Sutherland Sharks
2-1 2-0 4-1

round six

1st U/21 U/18
Macarthur Rams v Bankstown City
4-2 3-1 5-0
St George v Sutherland Shire
3-3 3-1 0-1
Leichhardt Tigers v Blacktown City
1-0 3-2 3-3
Sydney United v Bonnyrigg White Eagles
1-2 1-2 5-2
Canterbury Marrickville v Central Coast
2-1 2-0 2-3

1st grade

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	6	3	2	1	13	7	11
Parramatta Eagles	6	3	2	1	9	6	11
Bonnyrigg We	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
Macarthur Rams	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
Leichhardt Tigers	6	3	0	3	7	8	9
St George	7	1	5	1	10	10	8
Bankstown City	7	2	2	3	10	11	8
Central Coast	7	2	2	3	9	10	8
Canterbury Berries	6	1	4	1	6	8	7
Sutherland Sharks	7	1	3	3	7	9	6
Sydney United	6	1	2	3	6	13	5

Division 1 — round 13

1st U/21 U/18
Warringah Dolphins v Rockdale City Suns
1-3 1-0 1-5
Illawarra Lions v Penrith Panthers
2-1 1-7 0-4
Hills United v Ryde City
0-2 2-0 2-1
Stanmore Hawks v West Wanderers
4-0 0-1 0-1
Greystanes v Fairfield Bulls
1-4 0-5 1-0
Ryde City v Penrith Panthers
1-0 2-1 3-1
Rockdale City Suns v Bathurst '75
1-2 1-0 2-1
Warringah Dolphins v Auburn United
1-0 0-1 0-0
Eastern Suburbs v Belmore Hercules
1-1 4-3 2-0
Mt Pritchard v Hurstville City Minotaurs
0-2 0-1 2-1

Division 1 — first grade

Hurstville City Minotaurs 34, Ryde City 30, Eastern Suburbs 27, Stanmore Hawks 26, Bathurst '75 24, Mt Pritchard 21, Hills United 19, Rockdale City Suns 18, Fairfield Bulls 18, Auburn United 15, Belmore Hercules 14, Penrith Panthers 12, Warringah Dolphins 10, Illawarra Lions 7, West Wanderers 7, Greystanes 7.

Division 2 — round 7

1st U/21 U/18
AC United v Concord Juniors
0-0 2-0 14-1
Liverpool City v Dulwich Hill
3-2 1-1 4-1
Hurstville ZSC v Parramatta City
4-1 2-1 0-3
Alexander Warriors v Mt Druitt Town Rangers
1-2 2-1 0-3
Moorebank Sports v Uni of NSW
1-0 2-1 3-1
Sydney District v Gladesville United
1-3 3-1 1-1

Division 2 — first grade

Hurstville 13, Mt Druitt Town 13, Uni of NSW 13, Liverpool City 12, Moorebank Sports 11, Dulwich Hill 10, Gladesville United 9, Alexander Warriors 8, Sydney District 8, Parramatta City 7, Concord Juniors 6, AC United 5.

Division 3 — round 5

	1st	2nd
Glebe Wanderers v Hakoah	2-1	3-1
Arncliffe Scots v St Johns Park	1-0	6-0
Prospect United v The Wanderers	1-2	2-2
Colo Colo v Prairiewood United	4-1	10-1
White City v Hawkesbury City	3-2	3-0
Granville Greenisland v Trasandinos	2-1	0-6

Division 3 — first grade

Granville Greenisland 13, Glebe Wanderers 13, The Wanderers 12, Arncliffe Scots 10, Hawkesbury City 9, White City 7, St Johns Park 7, Hakoah 6, Trasandinos 6, Colo Colo 5, Prospect United 0, Prairiewood United 0.

Division 4 — round 7

	1st	2nd
Maroubra United v Marrickville	3-2	2-1
Earlwood Hermes v St Josephs	1-0	2-1
United Eagles v Angles Liverpool United	3-2	0-0
Springwood v Mascot Kings	1-2	4-1
Fraser Park v Sydney University	2-1	1-1
Fairfield Kings v Balmain	2-2	1-4
Lithgow Workmen v CSI Schofields	1-3	1-3

Division 4 — first grade

Sydney University 18, Fraser Park 18, Maroubra United 16, Earlwood Hermes 15, Mascot Kings 13, St Josephs 10, Marrickville 10, United Eagles 10, CSI Schofields 9, Lithgow Workmen 4, Balmain 4, Springwood 3, Fairfield Kings 2, Angels Liverpool United 0.

Division 5 — round 7

	1st	2nd
Nepean District v Kosciusko	3-0	6-0
Blacktown Premier v AVA United	4-1	1-0
Bossy v Racing	1-1	0-3
Camden Tigers v Homenetmen	9-0	5-0
AC Sydney v Auburn Star	4-2	3-3
Canterbury Bullets v Sporting SCC	2-2	1-2
Fairfield Eagles v Holy Cross	0-2	0-11

Division 5 — first grade

Holy Cross College 17, Camden Tigers 16, AC Sydney 16, Bossy 13, Blacktown Premier 13, Fairfield Eagles 10, Auburn Star 10, Kosciusko 9, Racing 9, Nepean District 8, Homenetmen 8, Canterbury Bullets 4, Sporting SCC 3, AVA United 1.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Womens State League Division 1 — round 6

	1st	2nd
Penrith Panthers v Gladesville Ravens	1-2	1-1
NSW Inst/Academy v Moorebank Sports	10-0	5-1
Macquarie Districts v Sydney United	0-1	4-3
S'land Sharks v NNSW Institute/Acad	0-0	1-1
Eastern Suburbs v UWS Macarthur	2-3	0-3
NSW Inst/Acad v Gladesville Ravens	10-0	8-3

Womens State League — first grade

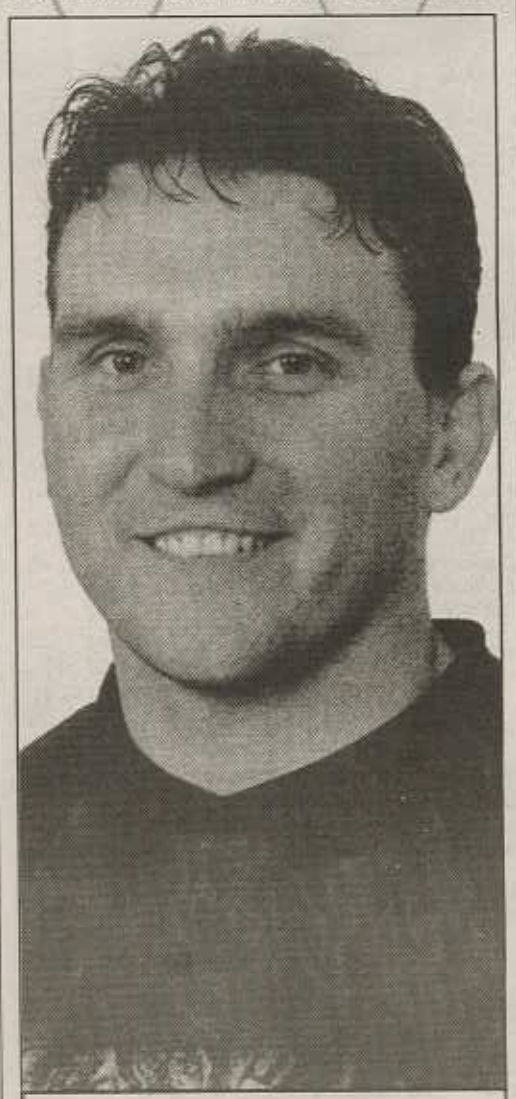
NNSW Inst/Academy 13, UWS Macarthur 13, NSW Inst/Academy 12, Marconi 12, Sydney United 12, Eastern Suburbs 12, Sutherland Shire 6, Penrith Panthers 3, Gladesville Raven 3, Moorebank Sports 3, Macquarie District 0.

Womens State League Division 2 — round 6

Liverpool Olympic v Gladesville Ravens	P/P
Wollongong City v Macarthur Rams	3-0
Shoalhaven Association v Univeristy of NSW	3-0
Eastern Suburbs v St George Association	0-2

Womens State League — first grade

St George Association 18, Wollongong City 13, Shoalhaven Association 12, Bathurst City 6, Macarthur 6, Eastern Suburbs 5, Liverpool Olympic 4, Uni of NSW 3, Gladesville Raven 3, Roselands 2.



MACARTHUR RAMS MACARTHUR RAMS

David Hayes: On winning side as Macarthur swept aside Bankstown.

TOP OF THE TABLE

FIRST DIVISION

Friday April 25 (Anzac Day) — Round 14

Fairfield Bulls v Rockdale City Suns — Nineveh field 3pm
Bathurst '75 v Illawarra Lions — Alec Lamberton 3pm
Penrith Panthers v Warringah Dolphins — Cook Park (St Marys) 3pm
Auburn United v Eastern Suburbs — Mona Park 3pm
Belmore Hercules v Hills United — Blick Oval 3pm
Ryde City v Mt. Pritchard — T.G. Millner field 3pm
Hurstville City Minotaurs v Stanmore Hawks — Hurstville Oval 3pm
West Wanderers v Greystanes — Hajduk Stadium 3pm

Sunday April 27 — Round 15

Rockdale City Suns v Greystanes — R. Ilinden Sports Ctr 3pm
Illawarra Lions v Fairfield Bulls — Ian McLellan 3pm
Warringah Dolophins v Bathurst '75 — Cromer Park 3pm
Eastern Suburbs v Penrith Panthers — Wentworth Park 3pm
Hills United v Auburn United — Fred Caterson Res 3pm
Mt. Pritchard v Belmore Hercules — Cook Park (Mt Pritchard) 3pm
Stanmore Hawks v Ryde City — Arlington Oval 3pm
West Wanderers v Hurstville City Minotaurs — Hajduk Stadium 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885 Max. call cost 75c/min. – IDS (Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

NSW Soccer Federation

Super League

All three leading teams failed to pick up a point over the two rounds played last week, leaving a congested but very interesting table.

The eleven teams are separated by only six points and this year's Super League is shaping up as one of the closest in memory.

RAMS NET FOUR

Macarthur Rams recovered from their shock loss to Leichhardt on Wednesday night, to put four past Bankstown City Lions at Lynwood Park on Saturday.

Locked at two apiece, the Rams struck twice in the final ten minutes to leave the score at 4-2 and them well placed in the top five.

Alan Lindley opened the scoring in the 20th minute for the Rams with a terrific diving header after good work by Rod Pena.

However the Rams must have been still in celebration mode when two minutes later Lions midfielder Robert Gomez waltzed into the penalty box, rounded David Hayes and struck home with a low drive.

Gomez struck a crucial blow for the Lions just before the break, swooping on a dropped cross by Hayes to hammer home. Macarthur came out strong after the break and were quickly level. Simon Fedele sucked in the defence and goalkeeper as he raced towards goal before laying off to David Reid who made no mistake.

After an extended lull in the game, Macarthur stormed home when Adrian Macerola volleyed home from 10 metres and Tony Telisman made sure with a header that went in off the underside of the crossbar.

Macarthur: Hayes, Wright, Sweeney, Lord, Houghton, Reid, Pena (Telisman), Fedele, Lindley (Hayward), Green, Macerola.

Bankstown: Kostadinovski, Josevski, Boskovski, Celik, Gomez, Eagleton, Todoroski, Velevski, Zafirov (Younis), Van Bentum, Luksic.

GOALS GALORE AT SAINTS

Goals reigned supreme at St George Stadium as the home side fought out an exciting 3-3 draw with neighbours Sutherland Sharks.

Twice in the second half St George hit the front only to see the Sharks equalise almost immediately.

Anthony Versi opened the scoring in the 13th minute after a bad mix up in defence which resulted in a free kick to the Sharks.

Ten minutes later Saints drew level through Daniel Totaro after he combined with John Pillemer.

Pillemer gave the Saints the lead in the 66th minute only to see Greg Lerond equalise from the penalty spot two minutes later.

St George thought they had sealed a win when substitute Alex Araujo scored with nine minutes to go but Tony Cabassi dampened the celebrations with a leveller almost straight from the restart.

St George: Bello Amigo, O'Shea, Scotti, Carter, Treharne (Holmes), Pillemer (Cummins), Martinez, Savoca, Magiasis, Totaro (Araujo), Eliul.

Sutherland: P Henderson, Donnelly, Lerond, S Henderson, Cabassi, Clinch, Bard, Versi, Christodoulou, Mozny, Moralis.

In other matches played on the weekend, league leaders Blacktown City Demons suffered their second straight loss, this time at the hands of improving Leichhardt Tigers.

Damien Smith scored the lone goal of the match in the first half, which has moved the Tigers into fifth spot, only two pints behind the Demons.

Canterbury Marrickville recorded their first victory of the season, defeating Central Coast 2-1 at Henson Park.

George Kategiannis gave the Berries a first half lead but the Coasties levelled through Peter Preston soon after the break.

With only 12 minutes to go Steve Georgallis pounced on a rebound only a metre out to earn the Berries their victory.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles moved to equal third position after a 2-1 victory over Sydney United.

Paul Richardson's beautifully taken goal after 73 minutes decided the match. Stefan Janic had given the Eagles a first half lead but the young Joel Griffiths struck an equaliser for the Pumas midway through the second half.

Round Six —Wednesday April 16

Parramatta Eagles failed to capitalise on a ten men Sydney United losing 2-3. A blistering first half by United gave them a 3-0 lead but when Michael Pfeiffer was sent off just before the break, it allowed the Eagles back into the game.

Bonnyrigg finished comfortable 2-0 winners over Sutherland, while Leichhardt with new signings Ante Juric and Steven Foster on board surprised Macarthur 1-0.

Central Coast beat Bankstown 2-0 up at Pluim Park while Canterbury and St George finished with two goals apiece.

First Division Round Up — round 13

EASTERN SUBURBS 1 BELMORE HERCULES 1

Still unbeaten, but Easts dropped another home point to leave themselves with a lot of work to do if they are to catch the leaders, Hurstville City Minotaurs.

Belmore picked up a useful point from their visit to Wentworth Park with Jason Lal back in business with a 49th minute goal. Kevin Watson had given Eastern Suburbs a 31st minute lead, but it was Easts' fourth draw from their last five matches, though they have been playing all the top sides in those games, apart from West Wanderers.

WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 1 ROCKDALE SUNS 3

Late arrival Saffet Catovic was left out of the starting line-up, but that didn't stop improvers Rockdale racing to a three goal lead at Cromer Park where, from a reshuffled midfield, Toni Salev struck twice and top scorer Spase Najdovski got another, all within twenty seven minutes.

After that the supply dried up and Warringah stuck away a second half Danny Barbalace penalty, but the Suns hung on well enough to record a valuable win.

HILLS UNITED 0 RYDE CITY 2

Ryde gave young keeper Anthony Philp his first outing in the senior side, on Saturday, in place of Andrew Prentice and he kept a clean sheet.

Meanwhile at the other end near veteran Terry Ide was in sparkling touch denying Jim Boudaher on countless occasions, but not being able to prevent the striker getting a 15th minute lead for his side.

Hills plugged away and it wasn't until the 88th that Nils Johnsson made sure with the Gunners' second.

MOUNT PRITCHARD 0 HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS 2

Dario Fernandez scored twice to send Minotaurs into the last two matches of the season's first series of games with a sensational 12 wins from 13 outings.

Fernandez was able to capitalise on good service from George Zabetikas in the 18th minute and from Tony Mihaljevic in the 61st to put paid to Mount Pritchard's slim hopes of getting a point from the game.

Dragan Pupovac was in sparkling form for Mounties and saved from George Kalogeras, as well as Louis Dounis and Mihaljevic on occasions too many to mention.

ROCKDALE 1 BATHURST 2

Bathurst rocked Rockdale at the Ilinden Sports Centre by scoring first from a fine Scott Mutton finish after excellent work by Mark Rooke with a dummy at the near post to a cross by Adam Collins, who was given free rein on the left flank.

Spase Najdovski almost brought his Suns side level only for Braydon Barcham to dive full length and push the Rockdale star's shot onto the post.

Shaun Dixon benefitted from a skirting run, which drew defenders, by Mutton in the 77th, by going right through the heart of the defence and slamming in the second.

The stage was then set for Rockdale to mount a grandstand finish, Iain Macdonald smashing the ball into the net after a nod down by Saffet Catovic in the 82nd.

Bathurst then had some anxious moments as the home side pressed on looking for at least an equaliser, but it never came.

STANMORE HAWKS 4 WEST WANDERERS 0

A tight contest until around the 35th minute then produced a swag of goals for the home side and a missed penalty for the visitors.

By that stage in the second half the Hawks were three up and the penalty had to be retaken due to an encroachment by a Wests player.

When Trent Worrall stepped up a second time young Hawks keeper Michael Keats made a fine save, his stint in the first grade side proving so far a great success.

Burim Zajmi had a fine game and combined well with Eddie Briscoe whose two quick goals late in the first half and a third soon after the break set up the win. Con Anagnostopoulos added a fourth late after coming off the bench, but was guilty of some glaring misses too.

GREYSTANES 1 FAIRFIELD 4

Greystanes sank to the bottom after conceding four early goals at Melita Stadium to the lively Fairfield outfit.

Sasha Talevski got the goals coming with an 8th minute shot and Rick Giometti added two more in the 12th and 18th. Greystanes seemed on edge and handed the Bulls a fourth when a defender's intended back pass eluded the keeper and found the net in the 15th.

Greystanes did score themselves in the second half, Todd Harper being the man on target, but there is a lot of work to be done to lift this side back into contention.

PEZZANO CONFIDENT OF ANZAC WIN

NSW Super League Select coach Tony Pezzano is confident that his side will successfully defend the Anzac Cup against Northern NSW this Friday at Central Coast's Pluim Park. Despite a couple of disruptions, due to injury and transfers, Pezzano believes this is the strongest squad that could have been picked for the match and it will do the job.

"We have a very good squad of players. It is relatively young but also very experienced. All these players have been in good form for their respective sides and I believe we have a terrific mix in the side that should provide good entertaining football."

NSW will defend the cup after last year's nailbiting 2-1 win in Newcastle. The hero that day was Pat Bradley, who scored twice, but unfortunately has had to give this season a miss due to a serious and recurring shoulder injury.

Last year's game was the first between the two federations in a representative game for 34 years, it is hoped that the historical rivalry can be continued.

Northern NSW has also employed a mixture of youth and experience, with coach Steve Bland also confident of victory.Wayne Bailey will lead the Northern NSW side, while Adam Sanderson and Benn Lane will be familiar names (they played with the now defunct Adamstown Rosebud club).The two squads are as follows:

NSW Super League Select:

David Hayes, David Huxley, George Souris, Mark Reveley, Damon Langan, Steve Eagleton, Robert Gomez, Ivo De Jesus, Christian Ortiz, Paul Richardson, David Reid, Damien Brown, Steve Karavatakis, Grant Bard, Jay Anderson, John Buonavoglia, Ben Lovie, Shane Knight, Steve Tolios.

Northern NSW:

Craig Shanko, Martin Lau, Mark Beagan, Wayne Bailey, Mick Williams, Brett McCauley, Adam Dearing, Peter Oberhauser, Justin Kavanagh, Neville Smith, Jim Cresnar, Benn Lane, Adam Sanderson, Danny Gordon.

In the earlier match, the NSW Womens Institute of Sport and the Northern NSW Womens ITC will play out for the Anzac Shield.The Northern team currently lead the NSW Womens State League competition and a few players represented Northern NSW in the recent Ansett National League competition.The two squads are:

NSW:

Cassandra Kell, Danielle Clarke, Neisha Klessattel, Julie Murray, Kristine Collins, Anissa Tann-Darby, Heather Garriock, Sandra Stavrou, Katrina Boyd, Taryn Rockall, Lisa Collins, Gillian Thompson, Ashley Hewson, Jenny Praszczalek.

Northern NSW:

Debra Carlin, Joanne Powell, Bridgette Starr, Kristy Dugomanov, Trudy Diamond, Tracie McGovern, Jodie Randall, Danielle Small, Shelly Youman, Tracey Baker, Kristy Palozzi, Lisa Richards, Libby Marshall, Lisa Rowland, Angie Schiebel, Bronwyn Nutley.

Leading Scorers:—

16	Lounis Dounis (Hurstville)
12	Eddie Briscoe (Stanmore)
11	Scott Mutton (Bathurst)
10	Spase Najdovski (Rockdale)
9	Con Anagnastopoulos (Stanmore)
8	Trent Worrall (Wests), Aydin Cetinay (Auburn), Tony Mihaljevic (Hurstville)
7	Jim Melissourgos (Belmore).

Anzac Day and Weekend Preview Round 14/15

It will be a busy weekend for clubs as they move into the last two rounds of the first stage of the competition.

We have already seen 13 rounds and after Anzac Day and Sunday, teams should be able to get a good idea of where they stand.

Of the sixteen matches on offer over the two days, there are several which stand out.

On Friday Hurstville Minotaurs and Stanmore is a major attraction at Hurstville Oval, while Ryde City and Mount Pritchard is not far behind in spectator appeal.

Hills visit to Blick Oval to meet Belmore should provide solid fare, while the interest in the Auburn and Easts game at Mona Park will centre on whether one of the best attacking sides can break down one of the best rearguards.

Illawarra are set to introduce up to four new signings when they front at Bathurst and return to face Fairfield at Ian Mclellan.

Among them will be Wollongong City players Sasha Dimoski and Richard Lloyd, no strangers to this division.

Sunday brings together Stanmore and Ryde City at Arlington in a match which could feature some healthy scoring.

Minotaurs are at West Wanderers' Hajduk Stadium, anticipating another win, while Easts will expect likewise against Penrith at Wentworth Park.

Of the battles nearer the foot of the table Friday's West Wanderers and Greystanes match should be interesting as both clubs aspire to represent similar constituencies in the Holroyd area in Sydney's South West.

Rockdale have an excellent chance to climb the table when they tackle Fairfield at Nineveh Field on Friday and Greystanes at teir own Banksia ground two days later.

SOCCER FEDERATION N·S·W

The battle is on again in the

ANZAC CUP

NSW Super League Select

v

Northern NSW Select

FRIDAY APRIL 25 (ANZAC DAY), 97

Pluim Park, Lisarow (Central Coast)

K.O. 3pm

Preceeded at 1pm by the

ANZAC SHIELD

NSW Womens Institute of Sport

v

NNSW Women's ITC

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND EIGHT

Saturday April 26

Blacktown City Demons v Macarthur Rams
Gabbie Stadium — 6pm

Central Coast v Sutherland Sharks
Pluim Park — 6pm

Bonnyrigg W.E. v Leichhardt Tigers
Serbian Centre — 7pm

Sunday April 27

Parramatta Eagles v Bankstown City Lions
Melita Stadium — 3pm

Canterbury Marrickville v Sydney United
Henson Park — 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885 Max. call cost 75c/min. IDS (Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

Ericsson Cup
Ericsson Cup
Ericsson Cup

RESULTS & SCORERS
ROUND TWENTY SIX

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 4
(Lowe 9; Ironside 35, 85; Sharpley 58)
UTS OLYMPIC 3
(Mitchell 48; Trajanovski 53; Ardone 76)
Crowd: 4,022

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
(Hunter 60 pen; T Cranney 70)
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 3
(Gotis 29; Hastie 56; Osman 84)
Crowd: 3,509

WOLLONGONG CITY 4
(Chipperfield 22; Spencer 43; Horsley 58; Sevin 75)
COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS 4
(Vlahos 14; Boutsianis 34; Della Roca 44; Dilorio 58)
Crowd: 4,396

ADELAIDE CITY 1
(Brooks 23)
SYDNEY UNITED 1
(Genc 71)
Crowd: 8,753

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3
(Curcija 55, 76; Trimboli 75)
CANBERRA COSMOS 1
(Buljan 90)
Crowd: 7,896

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3
(Pondeljak 44,57; A Cervinski 85 pen)
PERTH GLORY 1
(Carbone 10)
Crowd: 8,709

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2
(Awaritefe 9, Babic 56)
WEST ADELAIDE 2
(Thorp 24, 41)
Crowd: 6,052

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DRAW 21/10
SATURDAY 26 APRIL 1997, 7.00PM - Marconi Stadium

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 11/8 v **SOUTH MELBOURNE** 13/8
DRAW 21/10
SUNDAY 27 APRIL 1997, 3.00PM - Knights Stadium

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

NAME	TEAM	GOALS
David Zdrilic	Sydney United	21
Ante Milicic	Sydney United	18
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	14
Adrian Cervinski	Melbourne Knights	12
Vas Kalogeracos	Perth Glory	12
Norm Tome	UTS Olympic	12
Frank Farina	Brisbane Strikers	11
Rod Brown	Brisbane Strikers	11
Hamilton Thorp	West Adelaide	11
Michael Brooks	Adelaide City	10
Ice Kutlesovski	Melbourne Knights	10
Jim Tsekinis	West Adelaide	10
Kris Trajanovski	UTS Olympic	9
Andy Harper	Marconi Fairfield	8
Brad Maloney	Marconi Fairfield	8
Paul Trimboli	South Melbourne	8

ERICSSON CUP TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	26	17	5	4	67	33	56
Brisbane Strikers	26	15	2	9	55	40	47
South Melbourne	26	14	4	8	39	25	46
Adelaide City	26	11	10	5	32	22	43
Marconi Fairfield	26	12	4	10	41	37	40
Melbourne Knights	26	11	6	9	36	32	39
Perth Glory	26	11	5	10	48	41	38
West Adelaide	26	10	3	13	39	51	33
Wollongong City	26	8	7	11	42	48	32
UTS Olympic	26	8	8	10	41	46	32
Newcastle Breakers	26	7	9	10	40	46	30
Gippsland Falcons	26	8	6	12	33	41	30
Collingwood Warriors	26	6	9	11	32	44	27
Canberra Warriors	26	2	5	19	30	69	11

ACT Soccer Federation

ACT Soccer Federation Sports House Maitland Street Hackett ACT 2602 Tel: 062480614 Fax: 062572958
EMAIL: http://www.actsf.org.au./
— By GRAHAM COOKE

Puzzles with the juniors

An alarming fall in the number of boys playing soccer in the ACT and district during the late 1980s and early 1990s was disguised by a flood of girls joining the code, according to Junior League chairman Peter Stanfield.

Media attempts to get a breakdown on figures for boys and girls during that period were told by former federation workers that details of the gender of players were not kept. However, Stanfield has managed to compile a reasonably complete record of numbers from under-11 upwards.

It shows that boys' teams peaked at 192 in 1985, before going into a nine-year decline, the biggest calamity coming in 1987-88, when more than 500 players were lost to the code in a single season.

The fall bottomed out at 131 teams in 1994, and has since begun a healthy recovery to the point where there are now 184 teams on the park, just eight below the 1985 record.

While the boys were in decline, girls flocked to Soccer in almost unbelievable numbers. The federation first provided a females-only junior competition in 1990 with 55 players. This season the Quit Girls League boasts 53 teams.

It is probably no coincidence that junior boys left Soccer in droves during the period when Canberra had no national league side, and that the recovery began after a new entry had been accepted.

Now Stanfield, one of the architects of the highly successful girls program, is turning his expertise to junior soccer in general. Already strategies have been out in place to counter the difficult boys' transition from junior to youth ranks, with the amalgamation of under-16 and 17 age groups.

"We've got a whole heap of teams playing there now, but there still needs to be a greater choice for young players going on out of junior ranks," he said.

"At the moment there's just Premier and State League youth divisions, with nothing for the more social grade of player. "Maybe the answer is for an additional State League Youth division, playing on Saturday afternoons," he said.

"It's much easier for girls coming out of under 14s, they have the ACT Women's Soccer Association's under-16s, third and second divisions, the best even go straight into the Reserve competition."

Stanfield believes the girls have benefited from an improved profile for the women's game in the media, and he looks forward to a continued expansion. "The great thing about the girls is that if one new player comes along, she almost always ends up introducing a couple of mates," he said.

And with boys also on the upswing, it is not unreasonable to suggest ACT junior soccer is set for a second golden age.

Last off-season for Wadey

Paul Wade began his last, long off-season this week. The gear packed away, memories safely stowed, setting out on the march towards an uncertain future.

Paul Wade and Gungahlin Juventus Juniors at a recent coaching clinic.

The former Socceroo captain has played his last campaign, hardly one to savour with the Canberra Cosmos, finishing a long way last in the Ericsson Cup, but as any old professional knows, fairytale endings are for children's comics.

"I really would not have changed anything," he says. "But I know that's easy to say now. In a few months time when everyone else is back in pre-season training, that's when I am going to feel it.

"I already get twinges when I see the Socceroos in action. There's a bit of 'if only' about it, but I suppose old players have been saying 'if only' for as long as the game has been here."

Wade is not sure of the direction his life will take now. "I've got a contract with the ACT Soccer Federation to conduct their schools coaching program through the winter, then there's work for Soccer Australia and Snickers, so the wolf is not exactly beating down the door.

"But in the long term I've got to consider my options. The media really interests me, I don't think there are enough soccer people involved.

"We should be bragging about the Paul Okons and the Paul Trimbolis ... yes, and even the Vince Grellas and the Michael Garcias of the Cosmos.

"Instead the sport struggles for a few columns here and there. I don't know if I could change that, but I'd certainly like to try."

And if his new career allows him to stay in Canberra he will be delighted.

"My family's settled and yes, I even like the weather," he said. "I love getting up in the morning when it's been freezing overnight and the air is still, with the frost heavy on the ground.

"One of my most memorable trips in my career was to Holland in mid-winter; the air was so crisp you virtually breathed icicles."

One senses winter-loving Paul Wade will not be frozen out of the soccer scene for long.

ACT Premier League

Olympic	3	Queanbeyan City	0
Monaro	1	Canberra City	2
Tuggeranong United	0	Weston Creek	11
Gungahlin Juventus	1	Canberra Deakin	1
Belconnen United	2	University of Canberra	1

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympic	3	3	0	0	0	9	1	9
Belconnen Utd	3	3	0	0	0	9	2	9
Weston Creek	3	2	0	0	1	15	6	6
Canberra City	3	2	0	0	1	11	3	6
Juventus	3	1	1	0	1	6	4	5
Uni-Can	3	1	0	1	1	3	3	4
Monaro	3	1	0	0	2	6	6	3
Canberra Deakin	3	0	1	0	2	2	7	2
Queanbeyan City	3	0	0	1	2	0	11	1
Tuggeranong Utd	3	0	0	0	3	1	19	0

Leading scorers to April 13:

4 — Cattanach (Canberra City)
2 — Halton (Weston Creek), Chalmers (Belconnen United), Rinaudo (Juventus), Pietrukowski (Belconnen United), Young (Olympic), Popovich (Olympic), Wilson (Canberra City), Macor (Monaro).

Reserves: Olympic 9 Queanbeyan City 0, Monaro 5 Canberra City 3, Tuggeranong United 0 Weston Creek 4, Gungahlin Juventus 0 Canberra Deakin 1, Belconnen United 6 University of Canberra 3.

Points: Olympic 9, Belconnen United 9, University of Canberra 6, Weston Creek 6, Canberra Deakin 6, Canberra City 3, Juventus 3, Monaro 3, Tuggeranong United 0, Queanbeyan City 0.

Youth: Olympic 3 Queanbeyan City 2, Monaro 2 Canberra City 1, Tuggeranong United 0 Weston Creek 12, Gungahlin Juventus 0 Canberra Deakin 2, Belconnen United 4 University of Canberra 0.

Points: Weston Creek 9, Canberra Deaking 9, Olympic 8, Juventus 6, Canberra City 5, University of Canberra 3, Belconnen United 3, Monaro 3, Queanbeyan City 0, Tuggeranong United 0.

Deakin get on the board

Canberra Deakin gave a hint of better times ahead when it gained its first points of the ACT Premier League season with a 1-1 draw against Gungahlin Juventus on Sunday.

That result was certainly an improvement on the 2-1 Federation Cup loss to its old rival a month ago, but the most satisfactory development for coach John Bull was the steadying of the defence resulting from the return of Mladin Rogic from Canberra Cosmos duties.

And with Peter Buljan and David Milin back from the Ericsson Cup next week, Deakin could be set for a steady climb up the table.

Both goals came late in the game, but this was no dour, defence-dominated struggle. There was plenty of incident at both ends and so often it needed only a head here or a boot there to turn the contest into a high-scoring epic.

As it was, the Hawker Oval crowd waited until the 78th minute for the opener. Juventus' Scott Conlon beat Deakin goalkeeper Tom Rogic with a swerving free kick that thudded against an upright, and 16 year old substitute Matt Valeri dived full length to head home the rebounding ball.

It was a move to delight veteran Juventus spectators, many of whom can remember Valeri's father, Walter, joining the club in the early 1970s when he was little older than his son is now.

But with hardly more than a minute left Tony Barac at last got some reward for an afternoon of tireless effort in the Deakin forward line. He chipped a shot up and over goalkeeper Pedro Pavez's head from close range.

A draw was probably the fairest result of 90 minutes of solid toil for both teams. Deakin had just about the better of the first half, with the tall Mladin Rogic as dangerous in the air in front of Juventus' goal as he was safe before his own.

The Zebras came more into the game after the interval, especially with the introduction of Valeri, and one wild moment saw the youngster, team mate Oliver Ciano, the two Rogics and Robbie Douglas, all scrambling around on the ground a metre out from the Deakin goal before Tom Rogic finally managed to smother the ball.

For Bull, the two points for the score draw may well remain among the sweetest of the season. "We would have been very unlucky to lose," he said.

"We created more chances today than we have in all our games so far, and the boys are starting to put it together.

"I am beginning to have a good feeling about this season."

*In a tough game at Riverside, Canberra City showed its will to win with a 2-1 margin, writes Nick Guoth.

The two ACT Academy of Sport youngsters Shane Lyons and Manuel Sermino were just a pace ahead of their opposition and proved to be the difference.

Gus Cerro also made his return to ACT Soccer and was a hard worker throughout.

Monaro began well and had a number of chances, but it was City which took the lead when George Cattanach chipped the goalkeeper. The visitor continued with its pressure and if it was not for Ian Jeffrey in the Monaro goal, the score would have been greater at the break.

City began the second half where it left off and 20 minutes in lengthened its lead. A Lyons cross was helped on by Cerro to Cattanach for an easy tap-in.

Robbie Coulter grabbed a goal back when he was on the end of a quick free kick by Daniel Macor. In the dying minutes Peter Thompson went close when his point-blank header was tipped over the bar.

City coach Oscar Langone was delighted with his youngsters. Monaro's Ian Heywood felt his team did not play with the right attitude and was too inconsistent.

ACT premier league

Sunday April 27— Round Four

Tuggeranong United v Queanbeyan City, Greenway Oval • Gungahlin Juventus v Canberra City, Jamison Oval • Canberra Deakin v Weston Creek, Deakin Oval • Monaro v Belconnen United, Riverside • Olympic v University of Canberra, Majura Oval

Youth 11am Reserves 1pm Firsts 3pm

State League — Division One

Saturday April 26 — Round Five

Defence Academy v Belconnen United, Addison Road • Cooma v University of Canberra, Nijong Oval • White Eagles v Burns Club, Woden Park • ANU v Capital City Suns, North Oval

Reserves 1pm, Firsts 3pm

Finals Series Weel

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Around December time a prediction of South Melbourne making the finals would have had you carried off in a straight jacket.

The Lakers looked down and out, and coach Angie Postecoglou was rumoured to be close to being replaced.

But Postecoglou never lost faith in his methods and players and has been rewarded with a place in the finals.

South Melbourne have a terrific squad, probably second only to Marconi's. They will be severely tested in the next couple of weeks.

Especially since they will probably lose Michael Curcija, Con Blatsis and Bill Damianos to the Young Socceroos, for the third time this season.

South fans have had to endure the best and worst of their beloved club this year, the best often coming from their favourite player, Paul Trimboli. He has been sensational for the Lakers this year and it is he who makes the side tick.

Look through the highlights of the season and you will see that Trimboli was involved in at least 75% of all the Lakers goals.

But Postecoglou, in his first full year of coaching, must take most of the credit

He bought well at the start of the season bringing in Jason Polak, Warren Spink, Fausto De Amicis and David Clarkson.

After a slow start, Clarkson has been in eye catching form and plays an important role in South's midfield.

Another player to have made an impression this season has been Nick Orlic.

Not doing anything special when first bought from UTS Olympic last year, Orlic this year established himself as a quality defender who can score goals too.

South's record against other teams in the top six isn't so great and neither is their record in finals recently.

But their demanding fans may finally have another championship to look upon after May 25.

Lakers record against other Finals Teams

Adelaide City (A) 1-2, (H) 0-2 Brisbane Strikers (H) 1-2 (A) 3-2 • Perth Glory (H) 1-0, (A) 0-4 Melbourne Knights (H) 1-1, (A) 0-1 • Sydney United (H) 1-3, (A) 0-2 Marconi Fairfield (A) 1-0, (H) 3-1

27 April 1997	4 May 1997	11 May
3rd v 6th	2nd v 1st	1s v 2n
1st Leg Match B1 PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL	2nd Leg Match B2 ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL	Winner Semi Fin Final at
1st Leg Match C1 PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL	2nd Leg Match C2 ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL	Match D MINOR S FINAL
4th v 5th	6th v 3rd	WINNER v WINNER
	5th v 4th	
	LOSER ELIMINATED	LOS ELIMIN

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

No one predicted Melbourne Knights to make the finals play offs this year. And with good reason.

The reigning champions lost six quality players from last season's squad. Frank Juric, Joe Spiteri, Danny Tiatto, Fausto De Amicis, Vinko Buljubasic and Joe Bacak all left to take up positions at other clubs, either in the Ericsson Cup or overseas.

To lose players of this calibre would condemn any other side to the bottom of the ladder.

But the Knights are no ordinary side. Their resolve and steely determination have made up for the loss of their star players.

This is in no small part thanks to coach Ian Dobson, the man who guided the Knights to last season's title.

Dobson, inherited a side from the outgoing Mirko Bazic that seemed to be suffering a premiership hangover from the year before.

But Dobson turned the club around from mid-table mediocrity to a side that eventually finished in second place but won the game that counts, the Grand Final.

Thoughts of a third successive title seemed extremely optimistic after the Knights horror start to the year.

A 0-3 loss to Collingwood Warriors on the opening day was followed by a period of five home games where the Knights only took eight points.

Their home, Knights Stadium, was no longer the fortress it used to be and visiting sides could be excused for thinking about taking three points away from the Knights.

Until late in the season the Knights looked to have blown their chance of making another finals series.

Round 20 seemed to signal an end to it all. A 2-5 defeat away to Wollongong City had the Knights written off by all and sundry.

But there they were to prove everyone wrong again, saving their best form for late in the season where they went unbeaten in the last six games.

The Knights will obviously rely on skipper Andrew Marth, Adrian Cervinski, subject to fitness, Ransford Banini and Tom Pondeljak.

And if Joe Simunic can get fit again, the side will look even better.

Knight's record against other Finals Teams

South Melbourne (A) 1-1, (H) 1-0 Sydney United (A) 1-3, (H) 1-1 • Brisbane Strikers (A) 1-2, (H) 1-0 Adelaide City (H) 0-0, (A) 0-1 • Marconi Fairfield (H) 1-2, (A) 1-0

K 1

ADELAIDE CITY

inals time again and surprise, surprise, Adelaide City are there sitting in the top six.

The team from South Australia seem to be permanent fixtures in e play-offs and seem to save their best for around this time.

The loss of last year's leading scorer, Damian Mori, has not hinered the Zebras push for yet another championship.

They have not scored as many goals but that rock solid defence eeps frustrating Ericsson Cup strikers around the country.

Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic forever! Well it seems that way anyay.

They along with one of the best goalkeepers in the league, Jason etkovic, combine to make City's defence the tightest.

The no-nonsense, steady-as-she-goes style of play introduced by oran Matic, carried on by John Perin, continued this year by John Nyskohus, is effective as ever.

Although Mori was difficult to replace, Michael Brooks has returned to the league and contributed some handy goals.

Also midfielder Dino Mennillo has been one of the stand out players this year.

The Adelaide City statistic that stands out so much is their record against other teams who will compete against them in the finals.

Only Marconi have the better of them head to head this season but South Melbourne and Brisbane Strikers would not like to run into the Zebras in the finals.

Zebras record against other final Teams

South Melbourne (H) 2-1, (A) 2-0 Marconi Fairfield (H) 0-1, (A) 1-3 • Perth Glory (A) 1-2, (H) 1-1 Sydney United (A) 1-1 (H) • Melbourne Knights (A) 0-0, (H) 1-0 Brisbane Strikers (H) 0-0, (A) 3-1

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GRAND FINAL

Major plays me

Match E PRELIMINARY FINAL

WINNER 'A1-2' v WINNER 'E'

LOSER 'A1-2' v WINNER 'D'

MI

31-2'

C1-2'

R TED

LOSER ELIMINATED

Next week read about SYDNEY UNITED and BRISBANE STRIKERS

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

ast year's runners-up, Marconi Fairfield, will need to break their worst spell of the season if they are to go one better this time ound.

hey have turned it around before though, when they went through orror run at Marconi Stadium when they took one point from four mes before thrashing UTS Olympic 5-1.

hey can turn this bad patch they're going through too, they're too od a side not to.

Vhen you consider the wealth of talent that coach Manfred Schaefer s at his disposal you begin to wonder what might happen when the am is at its absolute best.

A team with five Socceroo representatives has to be considered riously for the championship.

Schaefer has had the headache, a pleasant one though, of deciding hich of Andy Harper, Sean Babic and Francis Awaritefe to play up nt.

Harper, one of the league's hardest working players, leads the club's scoring along with midfielder, Brad Maloney.

Babic's form has been so good that he was called up to Terry Venables' first squad in charge of the Socceroos.

Also in the Stallions midfield with Maloney are Craig Foster and Vlado Zoric.

Marconi fought off a host of other clubs to sign Foster from Adelaide City and his importance to the team is immeasurable.

Zoric too, has been useful, often chiming in with crucial goals and providing support for the front runners.

A fitness worry over Matthew Bingley is the only doubt you might have for thinking that Marconi cannot win the championship.

But other than that, there is no reason why Marconi couldn't duplicate their 1992-93 success and pull off the big one.

Stallions record against other final Teams

South Melbourne (H) 0-1, (A) 1-3 Sydney United (H) 0-3, (A) 3-1 • Adelaide City (A) 1-0, (H) 3-1 Brisbane Strikers (H) 0-1, (A) 1-2 • Perth Glory (H) 1-2, (A) 1-1 Melbourne Knights (A) 2-1, (H) 0-1

Victorian Soccer Federation

PORT MELBOURNE 0
ALTONA 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

A late goal from Sash Becvinovski condemned Port Melbourne Sharks to their second home defeat in a row at Anderson Reserve on Friday night.

Becvinovski's 88th minute winner came after a Sava Rusmir free kick, when a goalless draw seemed inevitable.

Altona always looked the better side, and had the best chances, but found Sharks 'keeper Mike Lilikakis in top form.

Jorg Jacobs came close to scoring for the Sharks early on, hitting the crossbar with a looping header from John Dimitrelos corner.

Lilikakis saved brilliantly from a Becvinovski header and had his post to thank when the same player was denied at the start of the second half.

Zoran Petrevski and Rusmir were also stopped from scoring by Lilikakis before Becvinovski's goal.

The Sharks had more woes when defender Carlo Mason was sent off for a foul on Petrevski in the last minute.

SHARK : Lilikakis, Argyriou, Dimitrelos, Jacobs, Latinopoulos, Jackson, Pappas, Mason (sent off), Strapelias (Palatsides), Tsaltas, Papadopoulos.

MAGIC: McGrath, Markovski, Fak, Runje, Micevski, Georgopoulos (Bogoevski), Barovic, Rusmir, Becvinovski, Madarovski, Petrevski (Atanasovski).

Referee: C.GraserVOTES : 3 - Madarovski (AM), 2 - Lilikakis (PM), 1 - Rusmir (AM)

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 4
NORTH GEELONG 0

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Sunshine Georgies kept up its unbeaten run under Gus MacLeod with a 4-0 win over North Geelong Warriors on Sunday.

After an even first half, the Georgies were just too strong for North in the second half, netting four times.

Arthur Tsirtsakis grabbed the first with a smart overhead kick from Anthony Cassar's free kick.

In the 56th minute, Tsirtsakis and Sash Markovski combined from a free kick, with Markovski lashing in a volley, putting the Georgies 2-0 ahead.

Glen Stefanac was then sent off for North, and defender Ivan Medved scored an own goal shortly after, to help the Georgies on their way to a good victory.

Sunshine completed the scoring in the last minute when substitute Paul Lewis tapped in from an Ilija Dragicevic cross.

GEORGIES: Wardle, Byrne, Tsirtsakis (Magnacca), De Bono, Makris, Branov (Field), Vassallo, Cassar (Lewis), Markovski, Daglaras, Dragicevic.

WARRIORS: Cagalj, Ljubicic (G.Skoko), O'Sullivan, Medved, Cosic, A.Skoko (Bot), Stefanac (sent off), Sobevski, Besei, Krajina, Stolica.

Referee: J.Ouliaris

PYO: 3 - Tsirtsakis (SG) , 2- Vassallo (SG), 1- De Bono (SG)

FAWKNER 2
SPRINGVALE WE 0

By Milan Ninovic

Two penalties decided the game between Fawkner Blues and Springvale White Eagles at Jukes Road on Sunday.

In the 12th minute, Springvale goalkeeper Robert Brian brought down Eric Vassiliadis in the area. Vassiliadis took the spot kick himself to give Fawkner the lead.

Vassiliadis added a second goal from the same way three minutes before half time.

Fawkner coach Bobby McLachlan said after the game "the boys played well against a very good side."

This was Springvale's worst performance for along time as they looked lethargic for the entire afternoon.

BLUES: Olver, Vassiliadis, Grimaud, Ferrante, Schipano, Ferla (Tramontana), Bordignon, Spasevski, Corallo (Psarros), Retre, C.Sterjovski.

WHITE EAGLE : Brian, Mlinar, Uzelac (M.Marinkovic), Kitanovski, Mladenovic, Burlak, Styczen (Calomino), Z.Mihajlovic, Gacovski (Kovacevic), Gnjidic.

Referee: J.Annuss

POY: 3 - Bordignon (FB), 2 - Spasevski (FB), 1 - Mlinar (FB)

BULLEEN INTER KINGS 2
PRESTON LIONS 0

By George Koukeris

Two goals from the Bulleen Inter Kings in the opening seven minutes settled the issue against the Preston Lions.

Striker Damon Collina was the destroyer, scoring in the 5th and 7th minutes, as he showed a huge crowd how valuable he is.

After ten rounds, the victory puts Bulleen into second position, and on todays performance, they look championship material.

Preston Lions continued their incosistent run with a disappointing showing .

BULLEEN INTER KINGS: Keogh, Valentic, Stojcevski, Krajacic, Mazzini, Sonsini, Tartaglia, Collina, Grbac, Hollingsworth, Ngata.

PRESTON LIONS: Petrovski, Ognenovski (Chiodo), Drogriski, Stavrevski, Lisolajski, Bizimovski, Emsovski, Filiposki, Burlak, Donev, Radecki.

POY: 3 - Collina (BK), 2 - Donev (PL), 1- Hollingsworth (BK)

Steve Douglas: Key player in Cavaliers march to top.

Joe Biskic: Veteran still playing with Heidelberg United.

Victorian Soccer Federation

State League Division 1 Results

South Dandenong 1 — Broadmeadows City 0
Western Suburbs 0 - Richmond 2
Lalor United 4 — Doncaster Rovers 0
Kingston City 1 — Northcote City 1
Maroondah Arrows 0 — Springvale City 1
Westgate 0 — Westvale 1
Moorabbin City 5 — Werribee City 1

Table: South Dandenong 15, Moorabbin City 12, Werribee City 12, Richmond 10, Westvale 9, Kingston City 8, Northcote City 7, Lalor United 6, Western Suburbs 6, Broadmeadows City 6, Doncaster Rovers 4, Springvale City 3, Westgate 3, Marrondah Arrows 1

State League Division 2 Results

Yarraville/Glen Eira 1 — Essendon Bruns. Royals 0
Bell Park 0 — Frankston Pines 0
Altona City 1 — Regent Bulla 2
Frankston Strikers 0 — Old Scotch Waverley 2
East Richmond 0 — Mooroolbark 0
Knox City 3 — Altona East 3
Oakleigh 1 — Ringwood City 2

Table: Regent Bulla 13, Altona East 11, Ringwood City 10, Old Scotch Waverley 9, Essendon Bruns. Royals 9, Oakleigh 7, Altona City 6, Yarraville/Glen Eira 6, Frankston Strikers 6, East Richmond 6, Knox City 5, Mooroolbark 2, Bell Park 1, Frankston Pines -2.

State League Division 3 Results

Chelsea 1 - Banyule City 0
South Werribee 2 - South Caulfield 2
Cranbourne 2 - North Coburg United 2
South Springvale 1 - Melbourne City 0
Diamond Valley United 5 - Geelong 3
Keilor Park 0 - Nunawading City 4
Pascoe Vale 0 - Fitzroy City 0

Table: Chelsea 15, Cranbourne 13, South Springvale 10, South Werribee 6, North Coburg United 6, Banyule City 5, Pascoe Vale 5, South Caulfield 5, Keilor Park 5, Diamond Valley United 4, Fitzroy City 4, Nunawading City 3, Geelong 2, Melbourne City 2, Nunawading City 0.

State League Division 4 Results

Clifton Hill United 1 - Seaford United 0
Geelong Rangers 1 - Langwarrin 4
Keysborough 4 - Stonnington City 2
Sunbury United 0 - Lalor 1
Sandringham City 6 - Corio 3
Monbulk 2 - Moreland City 3
Williamstown 1 - Sunshine Heights 1

Table: Keysborough 13, Clifton Hill United 13, Langwarrin 11, Williamstown 10, Geelong Rangers 9, Moreland City 8, Sandringham City 6, Stonnington City 6, Sunshine Heights 6, Lalor 3, Corio 3, Sunbury United 2, Monbulk 1, Seaford United 0

Provisional League Division 1 Results

Sunshine Blues 3 - Croxton Park 0
Ballarat 3 - Doveton 0
South Wantirna 4 - Endeavour United 1
Glenroy 0 - Knox Park 3
Springvale Condors 0 - Mictham United 0
Melton 3 - Lyndale United 2
North Sunshine Eagles 0 - Brandon Park 2

Table: South Wantirna 12, Knox Park 9, Melton 9, Mictham United 7, Springvale Condors 7, Sunshine Blues 7, North Sunshine Eagles 6, Glenroy 5, Lyndale United 4, Brandon Park 4, Ballarat 4, Croxton Park 4, Doveton 1, Endeavour United 0.

Provisional League Division 2 Results

Braeside United 0 - Berwick City 1
Keon Park 3 - Meadow Park 0
Hoppers Crossing 2 - Sydenham Park 6
Brunswick City 2 - Templestowe Eagles 1
Waverley Wanderers 1 - South Yarra 2
Riversdale - bye

Table: Berwick City 7, Sydenham Park 6, Keon Park 6, South Yarra 6, Brunswick City 6, Riversdale 4, Meadow Park 3, Hoppers Crossing 3, Templestowe Eagles 1, Braeside United 1, Waverley Wanderers 0.

Provisional League Division 3 Metro Results

Dandenong 0 - Morwell Pegasus 3
Monash University 0 - Uni. of Melb. Blues 2
Newborough/Yallourn 7 - Camberwell Grammar 3
Keilor United 1 - Ashburton 5
Melbourne University 4 - Ringwood Rovers 0
Elwood City - bye

Table: Morwell Pegasus 9, Newborough/Yallourn 9, Uni of Melbourne Blues 6, Dandenong 6, Melbourne University 4, Ashburton 3, Camberwell Grammar 3, Monash University 3, Keilor United 1, Elwood City 0, Ringwood Rovers 0.

Provisional League Division 3 Nth/West Results

Mill Park 0 - Broadmeadows United 4
Latrobe University - Watsonia Heights (result not received)
Northern United 2 - West Preston 1
North Reservoir 1 - Whittlesea United 1
North Glenroy 0 - Brimbank 2
Somerton City 2 - Darebin United 1

Table: Broadmeadows United 6, North Glenroy 6, Darebin United 6, North Reservoir 5, Somerton City 5, Brimbank 4, Northern United 4, Latrobe University 3, Watsonia Heights 3, Whittlesea United 2, Mill Park 2, West Preston 0.

Premier League Results

Port Melbourne Sharks 0 — Altona Magic 1 (Becvinovski)
St Albans Saints 3 (Rados 2, M.Colina) Thomastown Zebras 2 (Sapazovski, Bichler)
Melton Reds 2 (Gurpinar, K.Simsek) — Heidelberg United 3 (Anastasiou, Svigos, Sherifovski)
Sunshine Georgies 4 (Tsirtsakis, Markovski, og, Lewis) — North Geelong Warriors 0
Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (Collina 2) — Preston Lions 0
Fawkner Blues 2 (Vassiliadis 2) — Springvale White Eagles 0

Fixtures for 24th—27th April

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 11

Friday April 25

Altona Magic v Green Gully Cavaliers, Paisley Park — 6.30pm

Satruday April 26

Bentleigh Greens v Fawkner Blues, Kingston Heath Soccer Complex — kick off 3.00pm

Sunday April 27

Springvale White Eagles v North Geelong Warriors— Serbian Sports Centre — kick off 3.00pm
Preston Lions v St Albans Saints
Goodyear Stadium — kick off 3.00pm
Melton Reds v Sunshine Georgies — 7.30pm Green Gully Reserve

Monday April 28

Heidelberg United v Bulleen Inter Kings — 8.30pm Olympic village
Thomastown Zebras v Port Melbourne Sharks — 8.30pm Smith Reserve, Fawkner

MATCH OF THE DAY — Preston Lions v St Albans

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1
ROUND 6
Saturday April 26

Westvale v Maroondah Arrows
Northcote City v Moorabbin City

Sunday April 27

Werribee City v Lalor United
Doncaster Rovers v South Dandenong
Broadmeadows City v Western Suburbs
Richmond v Westgate
Springvale City v Kingston City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2
ROUND 6
Saturday April 26

Ringwood City v Altona City
Regent Bulla v Bell Park
Frankston Pines v Yarraville/Glen Eira
Essendon Bruns. Royals v Knox City
East Richmond v Altona East
Mooroolbark v Frankston Strikers
Old Scotch Waverley v Ringwood City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3
ROUND 6
Saturday April 26

Fitzroy City v Cranbourne
North Coburg United v South Werribee
South Caulfield v Chelsea
Banyule City v Keilor Park
Nunawading City v Diamond Valley United
Geelong v South Springvale (kick off 8.30pm)
Melbourne City v Pascoe Vale

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4
ROUND 6
Saturday April 26

Sunshine Heights v Keysborough
Stonnington City v Geelong Rangers
Langwarrin v Clifton Hill United
Seaford United v Monbulk
Moreland City v Sandringham City
Corio v Sunbury United
Lalor v Williamstown

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 1
ROUND 5
Thursday April 24

Knox Park v South Wantirna

Satruday April 26

Endeavour United v Ballarat
Doveton v Croxton Park
Brandon Park v Melton
Lyndale United v Springvale Condors
Mitcham United v Glenroy
North Sunshie Eagles v Sunshine Blues

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 2
ROUND 4
Saturday April 26

Braeside United v Waverley Wanderers
Riversdale v Brunswick City
Templestowe Eagles v Hoppers Crossing
Sydenham Park v Keon Park
Meadow Park v South Yarra
Berwick City - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 3
METRO ROUND 4
Saturday April 26

Ringwood Rovers v Monash University
Uni. of Melb. Blues v Dandenong
Elwood City v Keilor United
Ashburton v Newborough/Yallourn
Camberwell Grammar v Melbourne University
Morwell Pegasus - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 3
NTH/WEST ROUND 4
Sunday April 27

Darebin United v Latrobe University
Watsonia Heights v Mill Park
Broadmeadows United v North Glenroy
Brimbank v North Reservoir
Whittlesea United v Northern United
West Preston v Somerton City

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 3
STH/EAST ROUND 4
Sunday April 27

Monash City v East Kew
Dingley City v Endeavour Hills
Collingwood City v Flemington Falcons
Parkmore v Ivanhoe United
Yarra United v Thornbury United
Noble Park - bye

This weeks Radeio 3BM 'Big Match' match of the day is Thomastown Zebras v Bulleen Inter Kings, 3BM can be found at 1116 on the AM dial and the program runs from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Also you can catch the "Big Match Review' program on Maonday night from 8.30pm to 10.30pm also on 1116 Radio 3BM

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Around the Globe

Austria

SV Salzburg	3	Casino Graz	1
Austria Vienna	1	Linzer ASK	1
FC T Innsbruck	1	SV Ried	0
FC Linz	1	Rapid Vienna	1
SCN A/Wacker	0	Sturm Graz	2

Rapid Vienna	28	15	9	4	54	27	54
SV Salzburg	28	15	9	4	36	14	54
FC T Innsbruck	28	12	7	9	38	30	43
Sturm Graz	28	10	11	7	38	23	41
Linzer ASK	28	8	14	6	30	27	38
Casino Graz	28	8	11	9	29	35	35
Austria Vienna	28	9	7	12	31	43	34
SV Ried	28	9	4	15	34	47	31
FC Linz	28	5	9	14	20	36	24
SCN A/Wacker	28	5	7	16	25	53	22

Belgium

League Cup
Semi Final (first leg)

Ekeren	0	Aalst	0
Tielen	0	Anderlecht	1

England

Premier League

Arsenal	1	Blackburn	1
Aston Villa	1	Tottenham	1
Chelsea	2	Leicester	1
Liverpool	1	Man U	3
Middlesbrough	0	Sunderland	1
Newcastle	3	Derby	1
Forest	1	Leeds	1
Sheff Wed	3	Wimbledon	1
Southampton	2	Coventry	2
West Ham	2	Everton	2

Man U	34	20	9	5	69	39	69
Arsenal	35	18	10	7	58	29	64
Liverpool	35	18	10	7	58	33	64
Newcastle	34	17	9	8	67	40	60
Aston Villa	35	16	9	10	44	31	57
Sheff Wed	34	14	14	6	47	40	56
Chelsea	35	14	10	11	55	54	52
Wimbledon	34	13	10	11	45	43	49
Tottenham	35	12	7	16	41	47	43
Leeds	35	11	10	14	27	37	43
Everton	36	10	12	14	43	52	42
Derby	35	10	12	13	42	54	42
Leicester	34	10	10	14	39	49	40
Blackburn	34	8	14	12	36	36	38
Coventry	35	8	13	14	34	50	37
Sunderland	35	9	10	16	32	51	37
S/hampton	35	8	11	16	47	55	35
West Ham	34	8	11	15	33	45	35
Middlesbrough	33	9	9	15	44	53	33
Forest	35	6	14	15	30	53	32

Note: Middlesbrough deducted three points.

Division 1

Bradford	0	Birmingham	2
Charlton	2	Portsmouth	1
Crystal Palace	1	Barnsley	1
Grimsby	2	Reading	0
Huddersfield	0	West Brom	0
Manchester City	0	QPR	3
Oldham	0	Bolton	0
Oxford	2	Swindon	0
Tranmere	1	Sheff United	1
Wolves	4	Southend	1

Bolton	44	27	13	4	94	50	94
Barnsley	43	21	14	8	71	46	77
Wolves	43	21	9	13	65	48	72
Sheff. Utd	44	19	12	13	74	52	69
Ipswich	43	18	13	12	65	49	67
Port Vale	43	17	15	11	56	50	66
Crystal Palace	43	17	13	13	72	45	64
Tranmere	44	17	13	14	61	52	64
QPR	44	17	12	15	62	57	63
Norwich	44	17	11	16	63	65	62
Portsmouth	43	18	8	17	54	50	62
Birmingham	44	16	14	14	49	47	62
Charlton	43	16	10	17	51	61	58
Stoke	43	16	10	17	47	55	58
Man City	43	16	9	18	56	57	57
WBA	44	13	15	16	65	70	54
Oxford	44	15	9	20	59	65	54
Reading	43	14	12	17	52	61	54
Swindon	44	15	8	21	52	69	53
Huddersfield	44	12	14	18	46	60	50
Grimsby	43	10	12	21	55	78	42
Bradford	43	10	12	21	43	70	42
Oldham	44	9	13	22	48	64	40
Southend	44	8	15	21	41	80	39

Division 2

Brentford	0	Crewe	2
Burnley	3	Rotherham	3
Bury	1	Peterborough	0
Chesterfield	1	Millwall	0
Gillingham	2	Blackpool	3
Luton	2	Shrewsbury	0
Plymouth	2	Walsall	0
Preston	1	Stockport	0
Wrexham	3	Watford	1
Wycombe	1	Bournemouth	1
York	0	Bristol City	3

Bury	43	23	10	10	60	38	79
Brentford	43	20	14	9	56	40	74
Luton	43	20	13	10	69	44	73
Stockport	42	20	12	10	53	38	72
Crewe	43	22	5	16	53	43	71
Bristol City	43	19	10	14	64	48	67
Watford	43	16	18	9	44	32	66
Wrexham	43	16	17	10	50	46	65
Burnley	44	18	10	16	66	53	64
Walsall	43	18	10	15	53	49	64
Blackpool	43	16	15	12	55	43	63
Millwall	44	16	13	15	50	51	61
Chesterfield	41	15	14	12	37	35	59
Gillingham	43	16	10	17	54	59	58
Bournemouth	44	14	14	16	41	44	56
Preston	44	16	7	21	45	55	55
Plymouth	44	12	17	15	46	55	53
Bristol Rovers	43	14	11	18	43	45	53
Wycombe	44	14	10	20	48	54	52
York	43	12	12	19	43	65	48
Shrewsbury	44	11	13	20	49	70	46
Peterborough	44	10	14	20	54	72	44
Notts County	43	7	13	23	32	56	34
Rotherham	44	6	14	24	37	67	32

Division 3

Barnet	3	Cardiff	1
Cambridge	1	Brighton	1
Chester	1	Scarborough	0
Darlington	1	Hartlepool	2
Doncaster	0	Fulham	0
Hereford	1	Torquay	1
Hull	3	Leyton Orient	2
Lincoln	2	Scunthorpe	0
Northampton	4	Exeter	1
Swansea	3	Mansfield	2

Wigan	44	24	9	11	79	51	81
Fulham	44	23	12	9	69	38	81
Carlisle	43	22	12	9	62	40	78
Swansea	44	21	7	16	60	55	70
Northampton	44	19	11	14	66	44	68
Chester	44	17	16	11	50	41	67
Cardiff	44	19	9	16	53	52	66
Cambridge	44	18	11	15	53	55	65
Colchester	44	16	16	12	58	49	64
Lincoln	44	17	12	15	68	67	63
Mansfield	44	15	16	13	45	42	61
Scarborough	44	15	15	14	63	66	60
Scunthorpe	44	17	9	18	58	61	60
Barnet	44	14	16	14	44	43	58
Hull	44	13	18	13	44	46	57
Rochdale	43	12	16	15	51	55	52
Orient	44	13	12	19	47	57	51
Torquay	44	13	11	20	45	57	50
Darlington	44	13	10	21	61	75	49
Doncaster	44	13	10	21	50	64	49
Exeter	44	12	12	20	47	66	48
Hartlepool	44	13	8	23	47	64	47
Hereford	44	11	13	20	48	62	46
Brighton	44	12	9	23	51	69	43

Note: Brighton deducted 2 points

Midweek Premier League

Everton	1	Liverpool	1
Newcastle	3	Chelsea	1
Wimbledon	2	Leeds	0

Division 1

Manchester City	3	Grimsby	1

Division 2

Gillingham	1	Stockport	0

Germany

1860 Munich	0	VfL Bochum	1
Freiburg	4	St Pauli	0
W Bremen	1	Karlsruhe	0
Hamburg	1	Schalke	0
Cologne	2	Arminia Bielefeld	5
B Dortmund	1	Bayern Munich	1

Bayern Munich	28	17	8	3	51	27	59
Dortmund	28	16	5	7	56	34	53
B. Leverkusen	27	16	5	6	53	33	53
VfB Stuttgart	27	15	7	5	66	28	52
Bochum	28	11	10	7	41	40	43
1860 Munich	28	10	9	9	45	42	39
W Bremen	28	11	6	11	42	43	39
Schalke	28	10	9	9	32	33	39
Karlsruhe	28	10	8	10	43	37	38
Duisburg	28	9	9	10	34	41	36
B M/bach	28	10	5	13	31	36	35
Hamburg	28	8	10	10	39	44	34
Arminia B/feld	28	9	7	12	36	41	34
Cologne	28	10	4	14	46	55	34
Hansa Rostock	28	8	6	14	30	41	30
Fortuna	28	8	5	15	23	45	29
St Pauli	28	7	6	15	31	51	27
Freiburg	28	5	3	20	34	62	18

German Cup Semi Finals

VfB Stuttgart	2	Hamburg	1
Energie Cottbus	3	Karlsruhe	0

Greece

Greek Cup

AEK	0	Panathinaikos	0

(AET) AEK won 5-3 on penalties

Holland

first division

AZ Alkmaar	1	Roda JC Kerkrade	3
PSV Eindhov	5	Graafschap Doet	0
NAC Breda	1	Vitesse Arnhem	1
Feyenoord	4	Fortuna Sittard	4
Willem II Tilb	1	Sparta Rotterdam	1

PSV Eindhov	29	20	5	4	76	20	65
Feyenoord	29	19	6	4	53	28	63
Twente Ensch	28	17	4	7	47	23	55
Ajax Amster	28	14	9	5	43	23	51
Heerenveen	28	12	11	5	50	34	47
Roda JC Kerk	29	13	7	9	44	38	46
Vitesse Amh	28	12	9	7	44	32	45
NAC Breda	29	10	9	10	39	43	39
Graafschap	29	10	6	13	46	43	36
Fortuna Sittard	29	7	11	11	28	45	32
Utrecht	28	6	13	9	34	37	31
Groningen	28	7	10	11	32	48	31
Willem II Tilb	28	8	6	14	31	45	30
Volendam	29	7	9	13	27	48	30
Sparta Rotter	28	8	5	15	31	42	29
NEC Nijmegen	29	5	9	15	29	55	24
RKC Waalwijk	27	5	7	15	28	51	22
AZ Alkmaar	29	5	6	18	22	39	21

India

Nehru Cup
(3rd place play off)

India	1	China	2
Bhutia (36)		Bao WJ (17)	
		Huang Y (31)	

Italy

Serie A

Bologna	0	Juventus	1
Cagliari	1	Inter	2
Fiorentina	2	Roma	1

Juventus	28	15	10	3	41	19	55
Parma	27	14	7	6	31	20	49
Inter	28	12	12	4	40	27	48
Sampdoria	27	12	7	8	49	39	43
Bologna	28	12	7	9	43	35	43
Lazio	27	11	7	9	32	27	40
Fiorentina	28	9	12	7	36	30	39
Udinese	27	10	8	9	37	34	38
Vicenza	27	9	9	9	35	32	36
Roma	28	9	9	10	40	39	36
Atalanta	27	9	9	9	36	35	36
Milan	27	10	6	11	36	37	36
Napoli	27	7	13	7	30	34	34
Piacenza	27	5	13	9	21	33	28
Cagliari	28	6	9	13	33	46	27
Perugia	27	7	6	14	33	49	27

Japan

J-League

Ichihara	2	Kyoto	4
Yokohama M	0	Osaka G	4
Shimizu	0	Urawa	1
Hiratsuka	0	Kawasaki	2
Osaka C	0	Yokohama F	2
Kobe	2	Nagoya	1
Hiroshima	2	Kashiwa	3
Fukuoka	0	Iwata	1

(bye: Kashima)

Scotland

Premier League

Hearts	1	Dunfermline	1
Kilmarnock	1	Hibernian	1
Motherwell	1	Dundee United	1

Rangers	33	24	5	4	83	28	77
Celtic	32	20	5	7	69	31	65
Dundee United	33	16	9	8	45	29	57
Hearts	34	13	10	11	43	41	49
Dunfermline	34	11	8	15	47	62	41
Aberdeen	33	9	13	11	42	50	40
Hibernian	34	9	10	15	36	51	37
Kilmarnock	33	11	4	18	39	57	37
Motherwell	34	8	10	16	40	53	34
Raith	34	6	6	22	28	70	24

Division 1

Clydebank	1	Falkirk	2
Dundee	2	St Mirren	0
Morton	1	Airdrie	1
St Johnstone	3	East Fife	2
Stirling	2	Partick	0

St Johnstone	33	21	8	4	68	22	71
Airdrie	33	15	14	4	55	31	59
Dundee	33	14	11	8	41	29	53
St Mirren	33	15	7	11	45	40	52
Falkirk	33	14	9	10	37	33	51
Partick	33	11	11	11	46	44	44
Morton	33	11	8	14	40	37	41
Stirling	33	10	10	13	46	54	40
Clydebank	33	7	7	19	29	50	28
East Fife	33	1	7	25	24	91	10

Division 2

Berwick	0	Hamilton	5
Clyde	1	Ayr	1
Livingston	1	Dumbarton	2
Stenhousemuir	0	Queen of South	3
Stranraer	0	Brechin	1

Ayr	33	21	7	5	56	32	70
Hamilton	33	21	6	6	73	27	69
Livingston	33	16	9	8	51	37	57
Clyde	33	12	10	11	39	38	46
Queen of South	33	12	8	13	51	54	44
Stenhousemuir	33	11	9	13	46	39	42
Brechin	33	10	10	13	35	43	40
Dumbarton	33	8	8	17	41	62	32
Stranraer	33	7	9	17	26	47	30
Berwick	33	4	10	19	31	70	22

Division 3

Albion	1	Arbroath	2
Cowdenbeath	2	Alloa	1
East Stirling	0	Inverness	3
Montrose	1	Queens Park	1
Ross County	1	Forfar	1

Inverness	33	23	7	3	69	30	76
Forfar	33	16	10	7	63	44	58
Ross County	33	17	7	9	52	39	58
Albion	33	13	8	12	48	43	47
Alloa	33	13	7	13	46	46	46
Montrose	33	12	6	15	45	58	42
Queen's Park	33	9	9	15	45	52	36
Cowdenbeath	33	9	7	17	36	50	34
Arbroath	33	6	13	14	30	46	31
East Stirling	33	6	8	19	31	57	26

Spain

Spanish League

Tenerife	0	Real Betis	1

Real Madrid	34	23	10	1	73	27	79
Real Betis	35	20	11	4	74	36	71
Barcelona	34	21	6	7	86	43	69
Deportivo Cor	34	18	12	4	50	24	66
Atletico Madrid	33	16	8	9	61	49	56
Valladolid	34	15	9	10	49	39	54
Athletic Bilbao	34	12	15	7	63	49	51
Tenerife	34	13	8	13	55	42	47
Real Sociedad	34	13	8	13	39	38	47
Valencia	34	13	7	14	52	48	46
Racing Santan	34	11	12	11	43	39	45
Celta Vigo	34	10	12	12	43	42	42
Compostela	34	10	10	14	37	54	40
Rayo Valle	34	11	6	17	34	47	39
Extremadura	34	10	9	15	29	47	39
Espanyol	34	10	8	16	37	46	38
Oviedo	34	10	8	16	41	57	38
Zaragoza	34	8	13	13	43	53	37
Sporting Gijon	34	9	8	17	35	58	35
Hercules	34	9	4	21	32	62	31
Logrones	34	8	4	22	26	71	28
Sevilla	34	7	6	21	31	60	27

Turkey

Cup Final (second leg)

Kocalispor	1	Trabzonspor	0

Kocalispor won 2-1 on aggregate

Australia

NNSW NBN League

	first	res	u/19s
Wallsend Red v Deloraine	1-10	1-2	2-1
Toronto Awaba v Cessnock	4-1	3-1	0-1
Broadmeadow v Hamilton	4-1	1-2	1-2
Belmont-Swansea v East Maitland	1-0	0-1	6-2
Highfield v Weston Workers	1-2	1-1	2-1

Tooheys league

	first	res	u/19s
Dudley Redhead v Lambton	0-4	1-2	1-1
Sth Cardiff v Thornton Park	2-1	2-1	3-0
Beresfield Utd v Tingira	5-1	5-1	0-0
Stockton v Singleton	0-2	7-1	0-1
Manning v West Wallsend	2-1	1-3	1-2
Pasminco v Budgewoi	0-2	1-0	3-2

Queensland

XXXX League

Bundaberg Waves	1	Rochedale Rovers	1
Taringa Rovers	5	Beenleigh	0
Brisbane City	3	Coalstars	1
Brisbane Lions	3	Wynnum	2

Brisbane City	7	5	2	0	12	6	17
Taringa Rovers	7	4	2	1	19	6	14
Brisbane Lions	7	4	1	2	12	8	13
Beenleigh	7	4	0	3	14	13	12
Rochedale Rovers	7	3	2	2	15	13	11
Bundaberg Waves	7	2	2	3	12	12	8
Coalstars	7	1	1	5	6	18	4
Wynnum	7	0	0	7	8	22	0

Around the Globe

Real ten points ahead of Barca

Real Madrid took a decisive step to their 27th Spanish league title after launching a spectacular comeback from a two-goal deficit to beat bottom-placed Sevilla 4-2. last weekThe win came as second-placed Barcelona crashed 3-1 at Valladolid, leaving Real 10 points clear at the top with just eight games left to play.

Things were looking good for Barcelona after Ronaldo gave them a fourth-minute lead. However, they wilted under continuous pressure, and were sunk by two goals from diminutive Valladolid striker Victor Fernandez.

Real Betis threw away a two-goal lead for the second successive home game, and had to settle for a 2-2 draw that leaves them one point adrift of Barcelona.

Meanwhile in Athens, AEK retained the Greek Cup when they beat Panathinaikos 5-3 on penalties in the final, following a goalless draw after extra time. The match was effectively decided when the first spot kick of the shoot-out was missed by Panathinaikos' Krysztof Warzycha. AEK's win left Panathinaikos to reflect on a dismal season in which the defending league champion are fifth on the table and facing a battle to qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

In Stuttgart, a 2-1 victory over Hamburg earned Stuttgart a berth in the German Cup final. A 60th minute goal by defender Thomas Schneider settled this hard-fought battle. Stuttgart, third in the German first division, now meet regional side Cottbus Energie in the June 14 final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Inter selects new coach

Inter Milan club president Massimo Moratti announced over the weekend that Gigi Simoni will succeed Englishman Roy Hodgson as club coach next season.

Moratti also said he hoped to keep English midfielder Paul Ince with Inter. "Paul will probably decide his future after the next UEFA Cup match," Moratti said. "I hope he stays with Inter but I can understand his desire to return to England."

Hodgson, who led Inter to the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup and

to third place in the league standings, will move to England's Blackburn Rovers next season, while Simoni moves to the San Siro from former Italian giants Napoli.

Paul Ince: Has to decide whether to stay at Inter.

Big investment by China

China moved a step closer to its goal of becoming a soccer giant in Asia with the return of the Jianlibao youth team after two years of training in Brazil. "Chinese soccer is pinning high hopes on this team," the Beijing Youth Daily said on Wednesday. The newspaper likened the team's 21-month training in Brazil to "a pilgrimage for Buddhist scriptures." The team, consisting of three coaches, and 24 players aged 14 to 16 when sent to Brazil, returned home to a hero's welcome.

Soccer has swept China off its feet, with the world's most populous nation now with its own professional league, however the Asian crown is still a distant dream.

Their women players have a better record - they made it to the1996 Olympic Soccer final in USA, only to be beaten by the host nation.

Karlsruhe downed by unknown

Lowly Cottbus Energie has become only the second regional league side ever to reach the German Cup Final.

The former East German side got through by beating first division Karsruhe 3-0.

And Cottbus now hopes to go one better than the amateur Berlin side did in 1993 but lost 1-0 to Bayer Leverkusen.

Cottbus will meet either VfB Stuttgart in the final.

Klinsmann weighs up options

German captain Juergen Klinsmann has told Italian Serie A club Parma to wait while he weighs up various offers from Spain and England.

"I have received an offer from Parma, but I've asked them to wait," said the Bayern Munich striker, who has announced he will be leaving Bavaria at the end of the season. "I'm not in any hurry - Parma is a good option, they're second in Serie A and could yet be champions."

Klinsmann, who was voted English player of the year in 1995 after an outstanding season at Tottenham, is believed to have attracted the interest of several other English clubs, including Everton, West Ham and Nottingham Forest. There has also been reported interest from Real Madrid, but Klinsmann refused to be drawn, saying only that "all three countries have their charms." However, the former Inter Milan and Monaco striker did confirm that there would be no going back on his decision to quit Bayern. "I'm going, that's for certain," the 32-year-old said.

☆ ☆ ☆

Juergen Klinsmann: Leaving Bayern Munich for destination unknown.

BAYERN MUNICH EXTEND LEAD

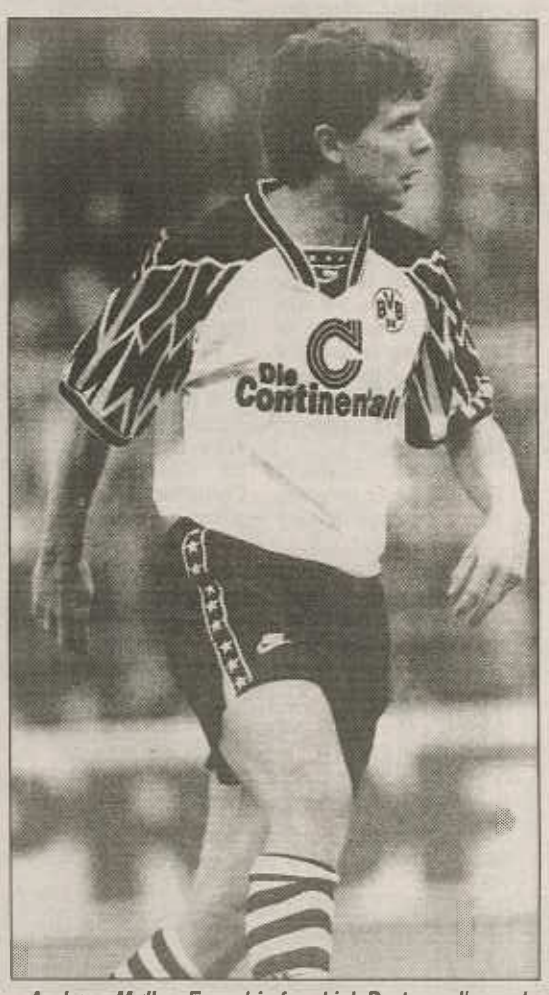
Bayern Munich drew 1-1 away to champion Borussia Dortmund on Saturday, to extend their lead at the top of the Bundesliga to six points.

A bullet like header from Karlheinz Riedle gave Dortmund the lead after Andy Moeller floated in a perfectly weighted free kick in the second minute.

Bayern was level just a minute later when Ruggiero Rizzitelli headed home a cross from Alexander Zickler.

The draw left Bayern six points clear of Dortmund, who moved into second place.

UEFA Cup semifinalist Schalke lost 1-0 away to Hamburg while Bochum defended its fifth place with a 1-0 win over 1860 Munich.



Andreas Moller: From his free kick Dortmund's goal was scored.

Top keeper's dope scandal

Paris St Germain's French international goalkeeper Bernard Lama was confirmed last Friday as having tested positive for cannabis. The star player now is now facing a two month suspension.

The result of his second urine sample, analysed earlier last week, confirmed February's positive test, and the French Football Federation (FFF) director of communications, Jean-Yves Le Huede, said Lama will be asked to appear before the doping commission within the next 10 days.

Rising Stars

AUSTRALIA'S JOEYS BANG'EM IN

Australia 14 Cook Islands 0

In the Oceania Under 17 World Cup Qualifying Tournament in New Zealand, Australia's boys have started with a bang.

Seven goals in each half left the Cook Islands reeling. Jason Culina grabbed a first half hat-trick and chimed in for a bonus in the 52nd minute. Nick Carle entered the game for the second stanza and had put away three by the 70th minute mark. Two were claimed by both Mark Bresciano and Danny Vidakovic. The other scorers were Vuko Tamasevic, Adriano Cuzzupe and Laz Zaekis.

Australia thrashed Tahiti 7-0 on Thursday, taking the Joeys to the top of its group.

On a slippery surface in Christchurch, Australia stormed to a 4-0 half-time lead and then had to contend with a packed Tahitian defence that resorted to roughhouse tactics to stop the Joeys from running up a cricket score.

Mark Bresciano and Nick Carle hit doubles and Jason Culina, Dane Vidakovic and Travis Dodd completed the rout with a goal apiece.

Bresciano, from Victorian club Bulleen Lions, was a standout player, opening the scoring in the fifth minute after cutting in from the wing and rifling home.

Bresciano was then in action with a solo effort carrying the ball past the sweeper and goalkeeper before clipping it into the net for the second. Vidakovic took it to 3-0 when he fired a rebound into the net and Bresciano made it 4-0 with an opportunist strike before the break.

Nick Carle: Claimed a hat-trick in just 25 minutes of the second Stanza.

In the second term, Carle turned the Tahitian sweeper and goalkeeper before drilling the ball into the corner to make it 5-0. Travis Dodd then went on a run and found Nick Carle with a sweet pass, which he tucked over the line for the sixth. Dodd completed the rout himself with the final goal.

Australia 7 Tahiti 0

Australia continued its romp through the Oceania Under 17 Group of the world cup qualifiers in New Zealand on Thursday, thrashing Tahiti 7-0 to head its group.

On a slippery surface in Christchurch Australia stormed to a 4-0 half-time lead and then had to contend with a packed Tahiti defence that resorted to roughhouse tactics to stop the Joeys from running up a cricket score.

Mark Bresciano and Nick Carle hit doubles and Jason Culina, Dane Vidakovic and Travis Dodd completed the rout with a goal apiece.

Bresciano from Victorian club, Bulleen Lions was a standout player, opening the scoring in the fifth minute after cutting in from the wing and rifling home.

Bresciano was then in action with a solo effort carrying the ball past the sweeper and goalkeeper and clipping into the net for the second.

Vidakovic took it to 3-0 when he fired a rebound into the net and Bresciano made it 4-0 with an opportunist strike before the break.

Carle turned the sweeper and the goalkeeper in the second term drilling the ball into the corner making it 5-0.

Dodd then went on a run and found Carle with a sweet pass which he tucked over the line for the sixth and then completed the rout himself with the final goal.

Jason Culina: Brought his tally to five against Tahiti.

Australia 5 Fiji 0

A Wayde Baldwin hat-trick steered tournament favourite, Australia, to a 5-0 win over Fiji on Saturday in the lead-up to today's semi-finals of the Oceania qualifying tournament for the world under-17 championship.

Unbeaten Australia finished top of its group after the preliminary matches - now the Joeys are hot favourites to reach the final when they take on the Solomon Islands in today's semis.

Fiji's loss has consigned it to a last-four showdown with New Zealand. Axel Tematu scored six goals for Tahiti in its 9-0 win over the Cook Islands at Christchurch in another preliminary round match.

Youth League

Northern Division

AIS	5	Sydney United	1
Marconi Fairfield	4	UTS Olympic Colts	0
QAS	0	NSW IS	1
Wollongong City	1	Marconi Colts	4
Newcastle	5	UTS Olympic	3

Southern Division

Bentleigh Greens	1	Melbourne Knights Colts	0
Altona Magic	6	Springvale City	0
VIS	2	Gippsland Falcons	3
Green Gully	3	Collingwood Warriors	0
(forfeit to Green Gully)			
South Melbourne	2	Box Hill	0
Melbourne Knights	4	Sunshine Georgies	3
Thomastown Zebras	3	Heidelberg United	0

NYL NORTHERN DIVISION April 13, 1997

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	21	13	6	2	53	20	45
AIS	21	12	6	3	48	22	42
Marconi Fairfield	21	12	5	4	36	20	41
Newcastle Breakers	21	13	1	7	48	26	40
UTS Olympic	21	12	2	7	53	37	38
Wollongong City	21	8	6	7	43	45	30
NSWIS	21	8	2	11	28	42	26
QAS	21	6	5	10	43	41	23
Sydney United Colts	22	7	2	13	32	49	23
Marconi Fairfield Colts	21	6	2	13	21	45	20
ACT AS	21	5	3	13	28	50	18
UTS Olympic Colts	20	3	2	15	22	58	11

Note the final table will appear in April 29 edition of ABSW

NYL SOUTHERN DIVISION April 13, 1997

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIS	25	20	4	1	91	20	64
Melbourne Knights	25	18	2	5	112	36	56
Gippsland Falcons	25	17	4	4	96	35	55
South Melbourne	25	17	1	7	106	38	52
Bentleigh Greens	25	15	3	7	54	36	48
Green Gully	25	11	3	11	57	52	36
Collingwood Warriors	25	10	4	11	52	57	34
Sunshine Georgies	25	10	4	11	42	67	34
Melb Knights Colts	25	10	1	14	54	67	31
Altona Magic	25	9	3	13	43	56	30
Heidelberg Utd	25	8	4	13	49	62	28
Springvale City	25	4	3	18	32	124	15
Thomastown	25	4	1	20	31	94	13
Box Hill	25	2	3	20	32	107	9

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

Revamped league in South Australia

On Sunday April 6 the South Australian Women's Soccer Association kicked off its 1997 season, sporting a revamped league structure and a record 47 teams.

The new structure, with a Premier and Reserve league replacing the old Divisions One and Two, has been introduced to ensure the state's best players have top class competition each week. It also gives clubs the opportunity to move players freely between the two leagues, without the restriction of the three game rule enforced in the past.

The Premier and Reserve Leagues have been increased from eight to ten teams, with last year's division two winners and runners up, Cumberland Vixens and Stirling Districts, joining Sturt Marion, West Adelaide, Modbury Jets, Noarlunga Lions, Elizabeth City, Elizabeth Vale, Adelaide United and Metro Knights in this elite competition.

The change from Modbury Vista to Modbury Jets, a week before the season started, threw the first round of the Premier and Reserve Leagues into chaos, however, the associated problems have now been resolved and all systems are go for an exciting 1997 season.

Noarlunga United also made a total club move , changing to Noarlunga Lions; fortunately this was finalised well before the season kicked off.

Sturt Marlon, champion for the last three seasons, has gained dynamic National League midfielder Karin Prince from Noarlunga Lions. She will play alongside fellow National League reps Sharon Black, Kristyn Swarter, Lea Trimbole, Tiffany Winn, and Claire Siggery. West Adelaide has also been strengthened by the return from injury of National League top goalscorer Kristy Moore, while National League goalkeeper Lynn White will do all in her power to ensure West gives everyone a run for their money.

Modbury Jets is looming as the team to knock Sturt off its pedestal this season, with a wealth of up and coming junior talent, National League stars Jessica Halfpenny and Emily Bussutil, and original ITC member Rebecca Crilley, who has just returned from a twelve month stint playing in Chile. Rebecca, originally from Blackwood Women's Soccer Club, was playing with Cumberland Vixens before her South American sojourn. Cumberland was counting on her return to bolster their team in its first Premier League season, but she was snapped up by Modbury in their bid to build a 'super' team.

With player and club transfers, the Premier League is shaping up to be a much more even contest this season, creating the highly competitive climate necessary to raise the standard of the women's competition.

This year's other innovation to SAWSA is the setting up of an Under 14 League with seven teams.

Kristyn Swaffer: Sturt Marlon have this international in their ranks.

Sarah Cooper: Candidate for new AIS program.

AIS ON THE GO

The evolution of women's Soccer continues with the move to establish a program at the Australian Institute of Sport.

The subject was at the top of the agenda for last Saturday week's AWSA(Australian Women's Soccer Association) Management Committee meeting in Melbourne, with representatives from each state.

The AIS program will specifically serve as a single centralised headquarters for National Squad preparation as we move towards a (hopefully) successful 1999 World Cup and 2000 Olympic Games. The bold new move, to be up and running by mid-1998, received the endorsement of all in attendance at the meeting.

It is very likely the program will be established at the Canberra headquarters of the AIS, although a firm decision is yet to be made and the AWSA is currently looking at the issue of best location. All discussions with the Australian Sports Commission have leaned towards the AIS headquarters in Canberra being able to provide the best possible program and resources.

The centralised program will mean a significant drop in funding for the ITC (Intensive Training Centre) program, successfully running in six states for over two years. It is generally agreed the high success of the ITC program is now the main reason we are able to progress to a centralised setup, with solid funding and support.

It is vital that this move does not mean the end of the ITCs. The AIS program will be a great step forward in professionalism at the highest level, but the ITCs remain a vital ingredient in support of that small group, continuing to develop those on the fringe of selection, and nurturing the next young group of top players. The top of the pyramid can only be as strong as its foundations.

Rationalisation of the present ITC structure should see their continued existence in a reduced but effective format, and a complete reassessment of the program and its co-existence with the AIS Program will be made.

"Out of the meeting came a clear desire to maintain the ITCs in some form up to and beyond 2000," said AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher. "Not only for the best possible preparation for 1999 and 2000, but also to provide the best opportunities for the next generation of players for 2003/2004."

He added, "From advice received, before the 2004 Olympics, there will most likely be FIFA's first World Youth Cup for women. With two World Cups potentially to prepare for in the next seven years, there will be much greater demands on coaches and resources."

The national league will also continue to play a necessary role in the overall elite setup. "Hand in hand with the ITCs, it is our belief the national league will all the way be a vital element in Australian team preparations for 2000," noted Fisher.

AIS players will be returned home to compete in the national league, maintaining that all important tie with their home State and the best opportunity for States to promote their own leading players.

The time competing with, and against , other players from around the country will also provide National Coach, Greg Brown, with the perfect chance to compare and assess the progress of his own players against those outside his immediate program. Just as importantly, Brown can also monitor the performance of those other players vying to reach the top.

Brown and AWSA are keen to make all the right decisions before making the big plunge; they have been talking at length with those who have led the way with centralised, full-time programs. The obvious 'role model' is that of the Olympic champions USA, who trained together in California full-time to achieve that goal.

Closer to home, a perfect example of this is the Australian Women's hockey team, who also won gold in Atlanta after concentrating their preparations, full time, in Perth for six months.

"The USA went in six months prior and obviously, having won, they believe that to have been adequate time," said Brown. "We're taking that as a guideline for us — we'll need at least that for the Olympics. The six months from January 1999 will see us give our biggest effort at the World Cup."

Previous coach, Tom Sermanni, held talks with hockey and Brown also met up with coach Ric Charlesworth last week. "They have given us clues about the challenges we will encounter and how to get around these," said Brown. "It's been all very productive. We're now getting comfortable as to how we should approach this whole thing." Last week, Brown also met up with the national volleyball coach in Adelaide - They are another sport preparing to go centralised at the end of this year.

The timeframe of mid-1998 has been set for the establishment of the AIS program with the World Cup and qualifiers also in mind. The qualifiers will be contested in October 1998, giving the squad three months together beforehand. With the World Cup itself scheduled a year before 2000, it is considered just as important as the Olympics.

"Success at the qualifiers and the World Cup will be just as, or more, important. It will be like a trial run for the Olympics," said Fisher. "It will be important to demonstrate to our funders, especially the Australian Sports Commission, that we're on target to meet their expectations for 2000. It will also put us in a good position to address what is needed in the last twelve months before the Olympics, and to learn from that experience."

The number of AIS scholarships to be offered is yet to be decided, but will most probably be around 20-22. Brown's current tour around all the States of Australia, includes important discussions with players and coaches, explaining what needs to be done over the next twelve months in preparing to gain selection for a scholarship.

Those fortunate enough to be selected in the first intake of scholarships are in no way guaranteed to be in the final group to play in 2000. There will still remain as many avenues as possible for other players to challenge for selection.

"We'd expect everything to be firmed up with a confirmed location and timing by next month," said Fisher. "It's essential we then proceed to inform the players so they understand how it all works immediately. This will be very much on an individual basis between the association and players, with different individual issues to be considered to ensure maximum benefit. We can't necessarily expect to set down rules and demand everyone fit in with them."

Tal Karp: Does she have what it takes to join exciting new AIS move?

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —

Champions through in Libertadores

In the 1997 Libertadores Cup, the major championship at club level in South America, the teams to qualify have been Argentina's defending champion, River Plate, compatriots Racing Club and Velez Sarsfield; Penarol and Nacional of Uruguay; Colo Colo and Universidad Catolica of Chile; Gremio and Cruzeiro of Brazil; Bolivar and Oriente Petrolero of Bolivia, Minerven of Venezuela; Sporting Cristal of Peru; Guarani of Paraguay; Nacional of Ecuador and Millonarios of Colombia.

The last team to qualify was Nacional of Uruguay, whose fate depended on the result between Uruguayan champion Penarol and Deportivo Cali of Colombia. Penarol won 4-3 at Montevideo's Centenario stadium. Nacional finished in third position in group 5 while the Colombians were eliminated.

River Plate of Argentina, as last year's winner, automatically qualified for the second phase.

The pool winners were Bolivar of Bolivia in group 1, Velez Sarsfield of Argentina in group 2, Chilean champion Colo Colo in group 3, Gremio of Brazil in group 4 and Uruguayan champion Penarol in group 5.

The second phase will kick off on April 24, with the return legs to be played on May 7 and 14. The quarter-finals will be played on May 21 and 28; the semi-finals on July 23 and 30 and August 7 and 14 will be for the finals.

In the second phase, Bolivar of Bolivia, the favourites to advance, will play Minerven of Venezuela.

Argtentina's Velez Sarsfield (winners three years ago) will face Peruvian title holder Sporting Cristal. I fancy the Argentininians for this one.

Chilean champion Colo Colo tackle Nacional of Uruguay. It should be a classic encounter between two traditional rivals. Colo Colo, on current form, should have an edge over the Uruguayans.

Meanwhile, Gremio of Brazil, comfortable winner of group 4, will face Guarani of Paraguay. The Brazilians shouldn't have any problems in qualifying for the third round.

Uruguayan champions Penarol will have a difficult opponent in Racing Club of Argentina. An even encounter is on the cards, although Penarol's strike force should see them through.

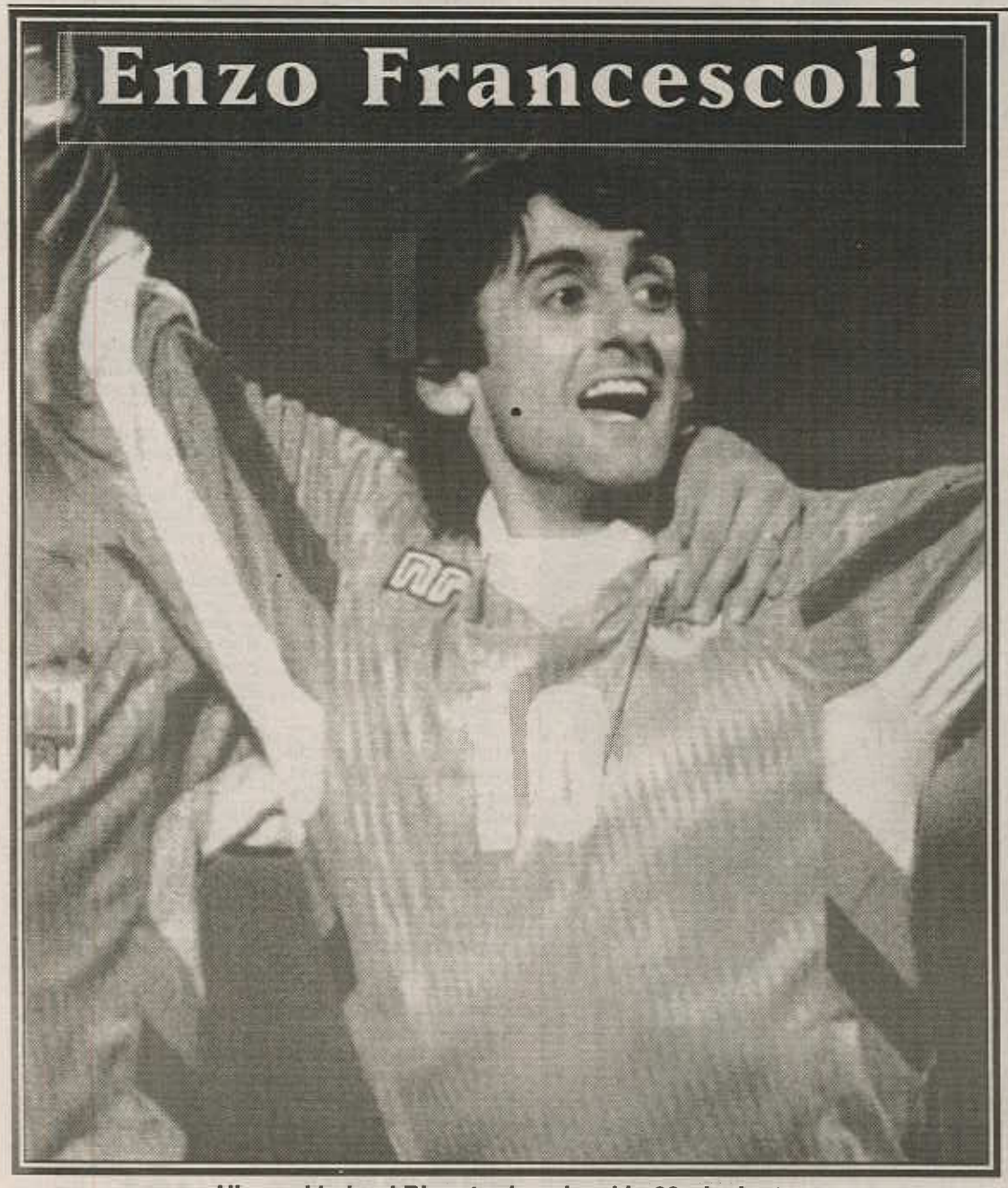
Bolivian runners up, Oriente Petrolero, will play Universidad Catolica, current joint leaders with Colo Colo in the Chilean national league. Catolica should win and qualify for the quarter finals.

Cruzeiro of Brazil, who finished second in group 4, will play Nacional of Ecuador. This is a 'must win' series for the Brazilians.

Finally, River Plate of Argentina, the defending champion will face Millonarios of Colombia. River Plate won the championship in 1996 and will try to repeat that famous success. Millonarios will be a strong opponent, like most Colombian teams, however the Argentines should have the experience to overcome this potentially dangerous foe.

So if logic prevails (and in the South America this is no guarantee), it should be Bolivar of Bolivia, Velez Sarsfield and River Plate of Argentina; Colo Colo and Universidad Catolica of Chile, Gremio and Cruzeiro of Brazil; and Pernarol of Uruguay going through to the quarter-finals.

Enzo Francescoli



His goal helped River to draw level in 82nd minute.

Velez Sarsfield wins the South American Cups Cup

Velez Sarsfield, of Argentina, won the South American Cups Cup in Kobe, Japan, after defeating compatriots River Plate 4-2 on penalties in the annual encounter.

The 90 minutes finished in a 1-1 draw, after penalty goals from Velez's Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert in the 29th minute, and in the 82nd minute from River Plate's striker Enzo Francescoli.

STH AMERICAN LEAGUES

ARGENTINA

Colon of Santa Fe is the current leader of the Argentine league second phase after its 4-3 away win against Conmebol champions Lanus.

In other results: Estudiantes 1 San Lorenzo 0, Newell's Old Boys 1 Boca Juniors 1, Independiente 2 Huracan 0, Gimnasia y Esgrima 1 Huracan of Corrientes 1, Gimnasia y Esgrima of La Plata 3 Banfield 1, Racing club 1 Union of Santa Fe 1.

The matches between River Plate and Rosario Central and Velez Sarsfield against Deportivo Espanol were postponed.

After eight rounds Colon leads with 18 points, followed by River Plate and Newells' Old Boys with 17.

URUGUAY

Current champion Penarol beat Defensor Sporting 2-1 after a midweek 3-2 defeat against River Plate, and is joint leader with Defensor and River Plate.

Other results: River Plate 4 Rampla Juniors 0, Wanderers 2 Huracan Buceo 0, Danubio 4 Racing 1, Liverpool 0 Rentistas 0. The match between Cerro and Nacional was postponed.

Penarol, Defensor and River Plate lead the competition with 13 points, followed by Nacional with 12 (but with a game in hand).

COLOMBIA

Four times Libertadores Cup finalist, America of Cali, maintained the lead in the Colombian national league after its 2-1 victory over arch rival Deportivo Cali, its fifth win on the trot.

Other results: Atletico Nacional 3 Cucuta 0, Tolima 1 Caldas 1, Magdalena 1 Medellin 0, Junior of Barranquilla 1 Bucaramanga 0, Envigado 0 Atletico Quindio 0, Millonarios 1 Independiente Santa Fe 2, Pereira 3 Cortulua 2.

PERU

Sporting Cristal is the current leader of the Peruvian national league, despite not playing in the last round of games. The match between the defending champion and Union Minas was postponed.

Meanwhile Peruvian giant Alianza Lima drew 0-0 with Alcides Vigo and Deportivo Municipal defeated Atletico Torino of Piura 3-2.

Other results: Sport Boys 3 Universitario 2, La Loretana 0 Cienciano 0, Jose Galvez 1 Deportivo Pesquero 1, Melgar 0 Alianza Sullana 1.

Sporting Cristal leads with 15 points and one game in hand, followed by Alianza Lima with 14 and Deportivo Municipal 13.

PARAGUAY

Olimpia returned to the top of the ladder after its 3-0 victory over Sportivo Luqueno, while Sol de America, the former leader, lost 2-0 against San Lorenzo.

Other results: Cerro Porteno 3 Cerro Cora 1, Sport Colombia 2 Guarani 2 (Guarani 4-2 on penalties), Atletico Tembetary 3 Nacional 0, Presidente Hayes 0 Libertad 1.

Olimpia leads with 20 points, followed by Sol de America with 18 and Libertad 15.

ECUADOR

After round five, Aucas and Olmedo are the current leaders of their respective groups in the Ecuadorean national league.

Olmedo of Riobamba drew 1-1, at home, with Liga Deportiva Universitaria of Quito, while Aucas lost 1-0, away, with Deportivo Cuenca.

Other results: Emelec 1 Deportivo Quevedo 1, Nacional of Quito 1 Barcelona of Guayaquil 1, Espoli 2 Deportivo Quito 2, Calvi 2 Universitario 2.

Aucas leads group a with 9 points followed by Barcelona and Deportivo Cuenca, both with 8 points each.

In group B, Olmedo leads with 11 points, followed by Liga Deportiva Universitaria and Deportivo Quito, both with 6 points each.

VENEZUELA

Current leaders Deportivo Tachira drew 1-1 with Estudiantes while second placed Caracas defeated Trujillanos 4-0 and increased its chances of representing Venezuela in the 1998 Libertadores Cup.

Other results: Mineros 1 El Vigia 0, Llaneros 1 Chacao 1, Zulia 2 Minerven 1.

Tachira leads with 31 points, followed by Caracas with 27.

ENGLAND — division one

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn R	38	13	6	0	35	10	7	3	9	25	33	49
Everton	38	13	5	1	29	12	7	1	11	17	30	46
Newcastle U	38	10	4	5	37	25	8	4	7	27	25	44
Bolton W	38	14	2	3	35	15	6	1	12	19	28	43
Sheffield W	38	11	3	5	44	17	5	6	8	25	32	41
Aston Villa	38	12	2	5	48	22	5	5	9	28	41	41
Middlesbrough	38	11	6	2	35	17	5	2	12	21	28	40
Sunderland	38	10	6	3	37	14	4	5	10	21	37	39
WBA	38	10	6	3	23	15	5	3	11	20	32	39
W Arsenal	38	12	3	4	38	19	3	5	11	17	40	38
Bradford C	38	12	3	4	31	15	3	5	11	15	35	38
Tottenham H	38	10	4	5	35	20	4	5	10	18	33	37
Manchester U	38	9	5	5	29	19	4	6	9	16	41	37
Sheffield U	38	10	4	5	47	29	3	6	10	16	27	36
Manchester C	38	10	5	4	39	20	3	4	12	17	38	35
Notts Co	38	9	4	6	26	20	5	3	11	20	43	35
Liverpool	38	8	4	7	27	23	4	6	9	22	32	34
Oldham A	38	10	3	6	32	19	2	7	10	14	35	34
Preston NE	38	8	4	7	26	25	5	3	11	14	32	33
Bury	38	6	5	8	23	25	0	4	15	9	34	21

division two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby Co	38	15	2	2	55	13	8	6	5	19	15	54
Chelsea	38	15	2	2	36	13	9	4	6	28	21	54
Burnley	38	14	5	0	50	14	8	3	8	27	27	52
Clapton O	38	16	0	3	44	14	5	3	11	17	30	45
Wolves	38	12	3	4	41	10	4	7	8	16	23	42
Barnsley	38	10	5	4	28	19	5	7	7	17	23	42
Hull C	38	12	3	4	36	13	5	5	9	18	38	42
Fulham	38	10	3	6	42	24	6	4	9	24	34	39
Grimsby T	38	9	6	4	24	18	6	3	10	24	37	39
Leicester F	38	11	4	4	34	18	4	3	12	15	48	37
Bradford	38	10	5	4	30	16	3	4	12	14	29	35
Birmingham	38	11	3	5	44	29	3	3	13	11	30	34
Bristol C	38	11	4	4	27	17	3	2	14	14	43	34
Blackpool	38	12	4	3	24	12	1	4	14	8	40	34
Nottingham F	38	9	3	7	26	18	4	4	11	20	30	33
Stockport Co	38	8	5	6	31	22	3	6	10	16	32	33
Huddersfield T	38	8	5	6	30	22	5	1	13	20	42	32
Glossop	38	6	8	5	33	23	2	4	13	9	33	28
Leeds C	38	7	6	6	21	22	3	2	14	29	56	28
Gainsboro' T	38	4	6	9	17	22	1	7	11	13	42	23

Scotland — division one

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	34	24	3	7	86	34	51
Celtic	34	17	11	6	58	33	45
Clyde	34	19	4	11	56	32	42
Hearts	34	16	8	10	54	40	40
Partick T	34	16	8	10	47	40	40
Morton	34	14	9	11	44	44	37
Falkirk	34	15	6	13	46	43	36
Dundee	34	13	9	12	52	41	35
Aberdeen	34	14	7	13	44	44	35
Airdrie	34	12	8	14	40	41	32
T Lanark	34	12	7	15	40	57	31
Hamilton A	34	11	8	15	32	44	30
Hibernian	34	12	5	17	44	47	29
Motherwell	34	11	5	18	34	44	27
Raith R	34	9	9	16	39	59	27
Kilmarnock	34	11	4	19	38	60	26
Queen's Park	34	8	9	17	29	53	25
St Mirren	34	7	10	17	32	59	24

division two

Ayr U 35, Abercorn 30, Dumbarton 27, Cowdenbeath 26, St Johnstone 24, St Bernard's 23, Leith A 22, Arthurlie 19, E Stirling 17, Dundee Hibs 15, Vale of

Southern League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Queens Park Rangers	38	21	11	6	59	35	53
Plymouth Argyle	38	23	6	9	63	31	52
Northampton Town	38	22	7	9	82	41	51
Swindon Town	38	21	6	11	82	50	48
Brighton & Hove Albion	38	19	9	10	73	35	47
Coventry City	38	17	8	13	66	54	42
Crystal Palace	38	15	10	13	70	46	40
Millwall	38	15	10	13	60	57	40
Watford	38	13	10	15	56	68	36
Stoke	38	13	10	15	51	63	36
Reading	38	11	14	13	43	69	36
Norwich City	38	10	14	14	40	60	34
West Ham United	38	13	7	18	64	69	33
Brentford	38	12	9	17	60	65	33
Exeter City	38	11	11	16	48	62	33
Southampton	38	10	11	17	46	63	31
Bristol Rovers	38	9	13	16	41	62	31
New Brompton	38	11	9	18	35	72	31
Luton Town	38	9	10	19	49	61	28
Leyton	38	7	11	20	27	62	25

division two

Merthyr Town 41, Portsmouth 41, Cardiff City 34, Southend United 33, Pontypridd 32, Ton Pentre 27, Walsall 27, Treharris 27, Aberdare 23, Kettering 22, Croydon Common 18, Mordy 18, Cwm Albion 11, Chesham Town 2

Weird and Wonderful 1911-12

By STUART JONES

Bob Crompton was the skipper of Blackburn Rovers when they lifted their first League Championship. Despite all their success in the FA Cup, and known as a club of rich history, the Ewood Park Club had not won this title. Undefeated at home, Blackburn were three points clear of second placed Everton, who themselves had only lost one game at home all season.

The holders Man Utd won only 13 of their 38 league games. Another side close to Manchester, Bury were relegated after failing to win an away match. Down with them went Preston North End. It had been a tight battle for four other clubs who finished within a win of Preston.

Oldham played Liverpool in their last game and won 1-0 at Anfield forcing North End down to Division Two.

The title race for the Second Division was hard. Derby won over Chelsea on goal difference. Burnley were two points behind and thus missed out on promotion, losing away to Wolves 0-2, whilst Chelsea defeated Bradford Park Avenue on the same day. Wolves had the best win of the league season thumping Hull 8-0 at home.

Gainsborough Trinity, Leeds City and Glossop were the bottom three. By January 1920 all had disappeared from the Football League.

The FA Cup this season saw another Southern League side, Swindon Town, make the semis. They played a 0-0 draw against Barnsley in the semi final, before losing 0-1 in the replay. West Bromwich Albion defeated League Champions Blackburn Rovers in the same way.by the same scores.

So the final was between WBA and Barnsley, a side who had never been in the top flight.

Crystal Palace hosted the final again and 54,556 people watched the two sides play out a 0-0 draw. For Barnsley it was the third time in a row a replay was needed after a 0-0 draw (they also played a 0-0 draw in the first round). In the fourth round they played two 0-0 draws against Bolton and the third match was 0-0 when it was abandoned after 86 minutes when the crowd spilled onto the field. Indeed to make the replay of the final Barnsley's for and against read 6 rounds, 11 games, 10 goals for, three against and six 0-0 draws.

So to the replay at Bramall Lane in Sheffield. The attendance was 38,555, and both sides were unchanged. The balance of play was Albion's although at full time it was still 0-0. So to extra time and it looked like another replay when with the last pass of the game Tufnell was put clear through the Albion defence and placed the winner in the back of the net for Barnsley. So the defeated finalists from the replay of two seasons prior, were finally FA Cup holders.

For the second time in five seasons Queens Park Rangers were champions of the Southern League. Indeed by New Year they had suffered just two defeats. They then lost to Swindon and Herbert Chapman's Northampton to tighten the race up a bit. They still outlasted Plymouth and Northampton. Reading made a reasonable return to the top flight finishing comfortably in mid table. Luton Town and Leyton were relegated, with Leyton not playing in the Southern League at all the next season.

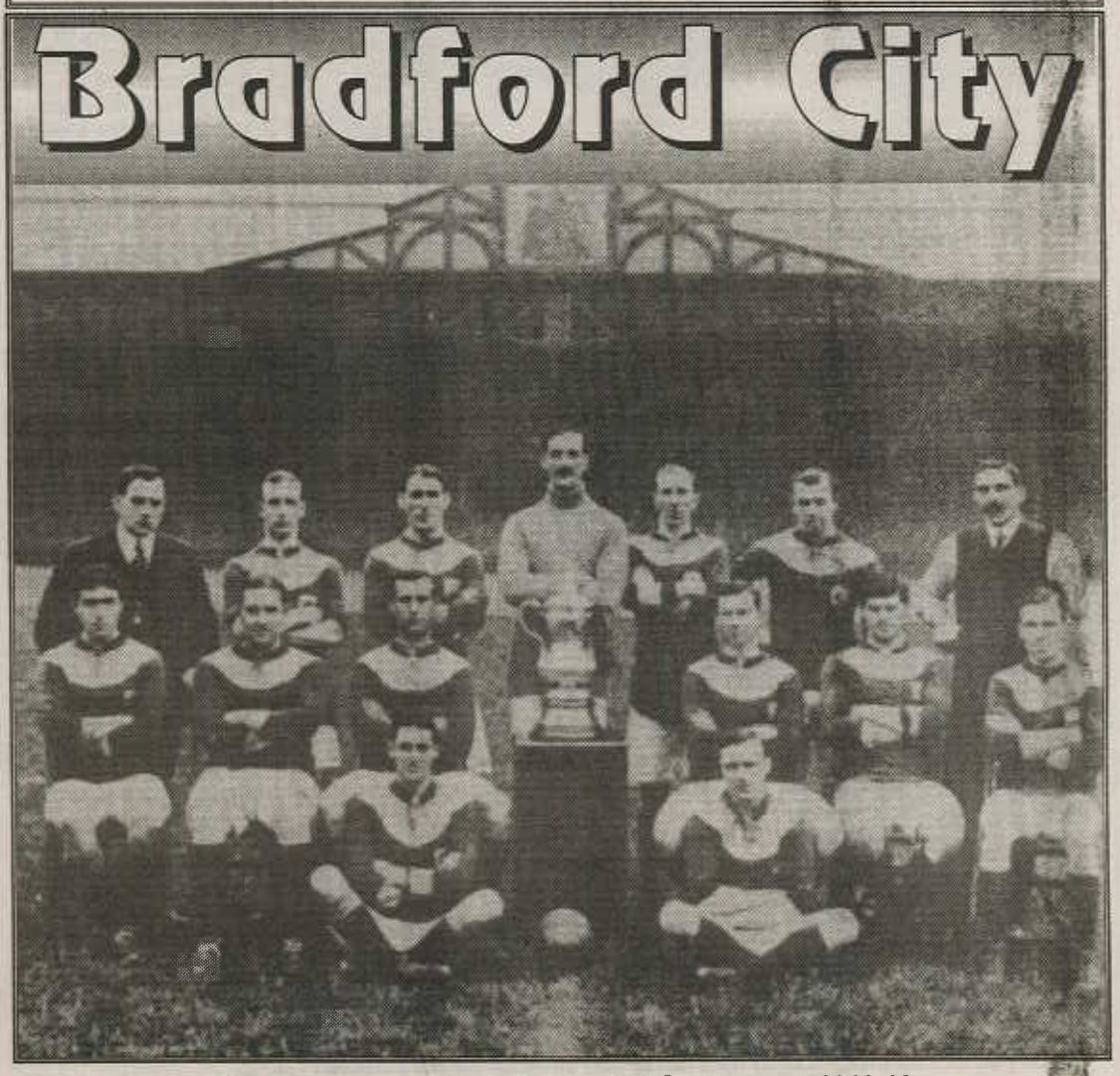
The Second Division race was tight but Merthyr Town won it on goal difference over financially stricken Portsmouth. They were not the worst though, when Ton Pentrie visited on Easter Monday they had to ask for a handout to get home.

Cwn Albion were unable to complete their fixtures but no points were awarded for unplayed games. Chesham had conceded 93 goals in 22 games, scoring only 16 in the season previous, things were only to get worse as their final season in the Southern League Division Two saw them read 26 games played 1 win 25 losses, 18 goals for 131 against.

In Scotland, Rangers were even clearer winners in 1912 than they had been the season previous. They were 6 points in front of rivals Celtic who were a further 3 points clear of Clyde. Those two teams would play in the Scottish Cup Final after Clyde had defeated Third Lanark 3-1 and Celtic had beaten Hearts 3-0. Rangers had been knocked out in the second round. On February 10, Clyde had led Rangers 3-1 at Shawfield when the game was abandoned. Clyde were awarded the game and progressed to the final. The final saw Celtic win 2-0 at Ibrox.

St Mirren finished bottom of Division One in 1912 but as there was no promotion and relegation, Division Two champions Ayr United did not go up. Albion Rovers were bad enough to pip Vale of Leven on goal difference for the unenviable title of wooden spoon holders in Division Two.

Around Europe FC Aarau improved a place to be Swiss Champions over FC Etoile and Servette. US Pro Vercelli put seven goals past AC Venezia to be crowned champions in Italy. In Spain the winner of the Copa del Rey was FC Barcelona who defeated SC Espanola de Madrid 2-0. Daring CB won their first title in Belgium, whilst across the border Sparta Rotterdam were champions in Holland. Haarlem won the Dutch Cup Final 2-0 over Vitesse Arnhem. Romanian champions were United Ploiesti whilst Djurgardens IF were first in Sweden. In Germany Holstein Kiel defeated Karlsruhe FV 1-0 (an exact turnaround from the title decider two seasons previous) to win the German Championship. Austria saw its first ever championship season and it was taken out by SK Rapid Wien who finished on 31 points, one point ahead of Wiener Sport-Club and two points ahead of Wiener AF in third place.



They finished mid table in Division One season 1911-12.

UK STORIES

European football for Leicester

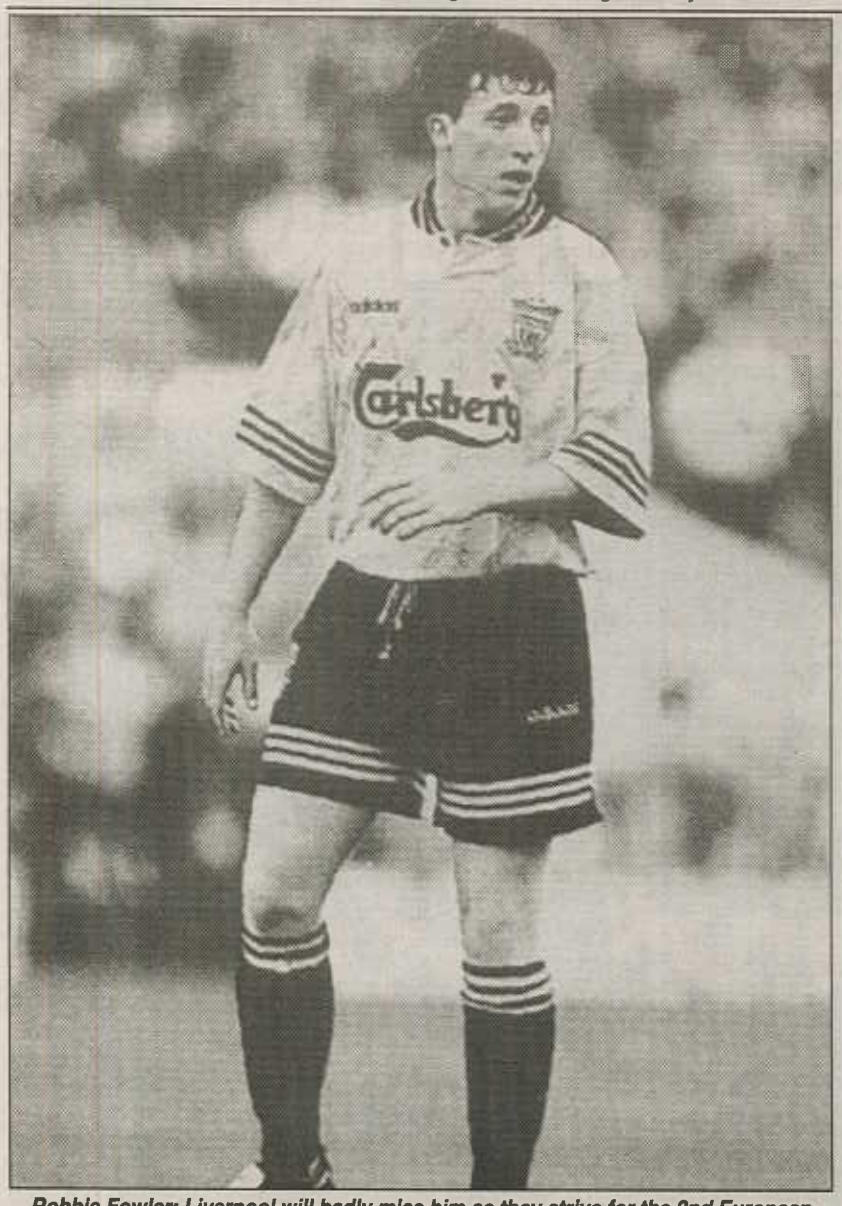
An extra time goal from striker Steve Claridge gave Leicester a 1-0 victory in the English League Cup final replay at Hillsborough last week. The win gave the Filbert Street side their first trophy since they won the League Cup 33 years ago.

Claridge, who propelled Leicester into the Premier league with a last minute strike in a Wembley play-off last season, volleyed home from a Steve Walsh cross in the 99th minute.

Brazilian Emerson squandered a wonderful chance to equalise a minute later but Middlesbrough, visibly wilting at the end of their third two-hour cup-tie in 10 days, had nothing left in the tank. The result ruined Boro's hopes of lifting their first major trophy in 121 years. They now try again in their F.A Cup semi final against Chesterfield tonight.

☆ ☆ ☆

Steve Claridge: His goal nine minutes into extra time was the difference between the teams. This striker was Leicester's most expensive signing when he joined them from Midlands neighbours Birmingham City.



Robbie Fowler: Liverpool will badly miss him as they strive for the 2nd European Champions League spot.

EVERTON HOLD LIVERPOOL

Everton striker Duncan Ferguson stalled Liverpool's hopes of joining Manchester United at the top of the English Premiership with a second-half equaliser, as last Wednesday's Merseyside derby ended in a 1-1 draw at Goodison Park. Ferguson's 65th-minute strike was the perfect tonic for his namesake, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson

Jamie Redknapp put Liverpool on course for three points when he gave the Reds a first-half lead after Steve McManaman had played a neat one-two with Robbie Fowler. Redknapp was perfectly placed to steer the ball past Everton's veteran goalkeeper Neville Southall, playing in his 40th local derby.

The home side, who had defender Craig Short stretchered off with a worrying neck injury in the 21st minute, squandered chances to draw level before half-time, including a Duncan Ferguson header that was cleared off the line by Liverpool's Michael Thomas.

However the big Scottish striker made no mistake with his equaliser, when a poor clearance from Steve Harkness fell at his feet and he fired a stunning shot into the bottom corner of the net. The match ended on an ugly note when Liverpool's Robbie Fowler and Everton's David Unsworth were sent off for violent conduct eight minutes from the end of a typically robust derby.

Chelsea crashed to earth following the previous Sunday's FA Cup semi-final victory over Wimbledon, as it slumped 3-1 at Newcastle. Two goals from England striker Alan Shearer sandwiched a strike from Colombian star Faustino Asprilla to give the home side a 3-0 lead inside just 35 minutes. Craig Burley got one back for Chelsea midway through the second half.

Wimbledon, beaten in the semi-finals of both of England's Cup competitions, overcame a disappointing Leeds 2-0 to boost its hopes of gaining a UEFA Cup place - Dean Holdsworth and Stewart Castledine notched the goals for the Dons.

UNITED TOO GOOD FOR LIVERPOOL

Manchester United moved decisively closer to the English Premier League title, and in doing so, effectively ended Liverpool's challenge when it deservedly beat its arch rival 3-1 at Anfield on Saturday (shown live by ABC TV).

In the clash between the two table toppers, United dominated a Liverpool side that defended abysmally and was undermined by another woeful display from out-of-form goalkeeper David James, who virtually handed United its third goal, thus making the game safe for the defending champion.

All four goals came from headers, with Gary Pallister scoring twice for United and Andy Cole adding the other. John Barnes briefly gave the Merseysiders some hope with a rare header , blotting out Pallister's opener.

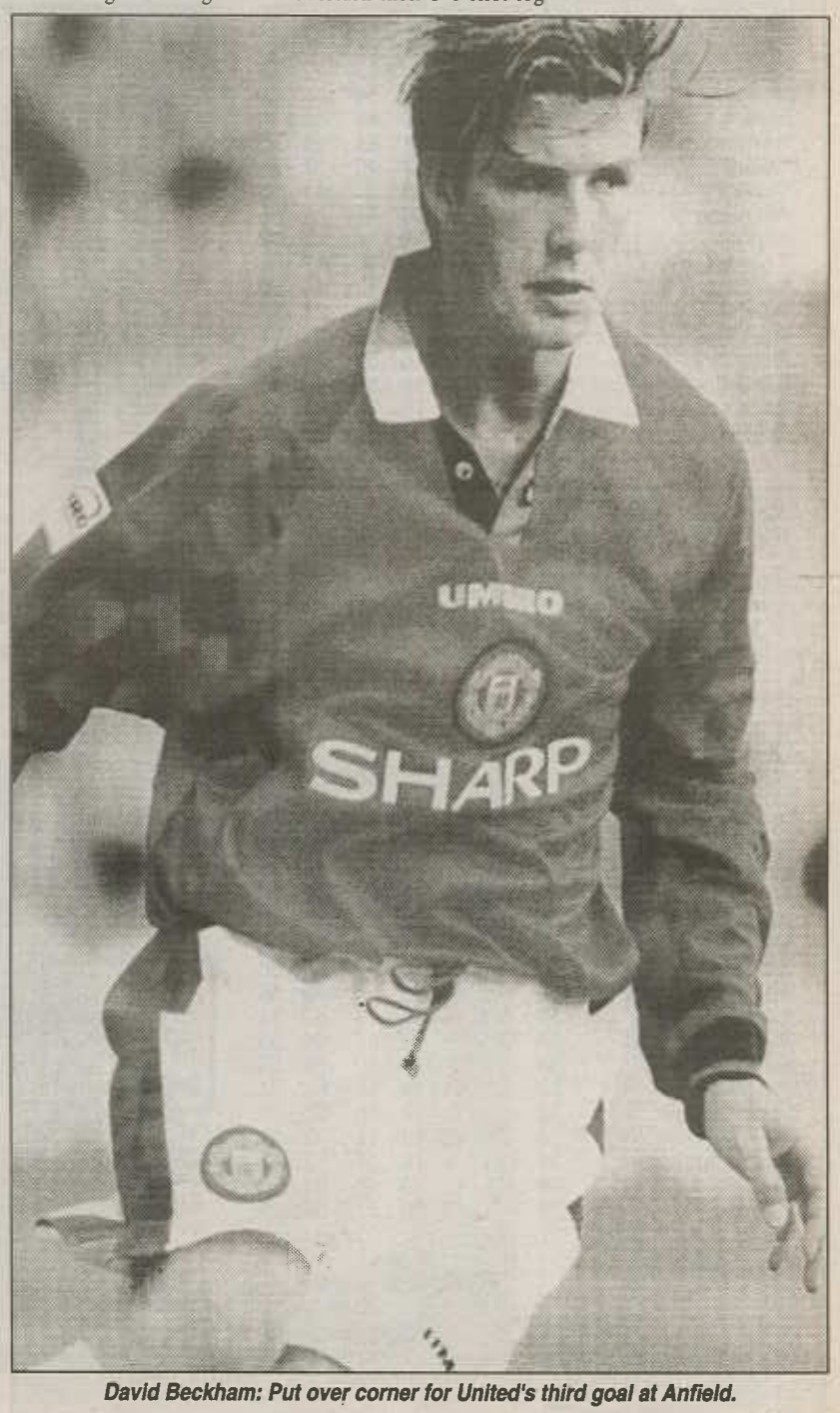
The victory moved United to 69 points with four matches remaining. Rivals Arsenal and Liverpool have 64 points with three to play. United manager Ferguson was cautiously optimistic: "It was a massive result for us, very big win, a very important victory. Although we have three home matches left, we still have a lot to do. To be champions you have to come here where they know a lot about title-winning sides and do well. I think if we win the title we will deserve it, but nothing is settled yet."

Liverpool manager Roy Evans was realistic: "We won't throw the towel in and say it's all over, but it's a very tall order for us now." United, which had won only once in the league at Anfield in the last nine seasons, was put on the way to its biggest away victory over Liverpool since 1969 when Pallister, unmarked at a David Beckham corner, powerfully headed home from close range.

United will meet Borussia Dortmund in the second leg of the European Cup semi-final at Old Trafford tomorrow (Wednesday). They should be in a far happier frame of mind than Liverpool, who play Paris St Germain in the return of their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final on Thursday at Anfield.

Both English sides go into these games behind on aggregate, while United looks to have a fair chance of overturning its 1-0 first-leg deficit, Liverpool will have to show a huge improvement to overturn their 3-0 first-leg loss.

Note: The Man United versus Borussia Dortmund game is live on SBS TV on Thursday morning starting at 4.15am EST.



David Beckham: Put over corner for United's third goal at Anfield.

Aussies Abroad . . .

By Stuart Jones

An interview with Carl Veart

Carl's views on:

Crystal Palace's prospects:

"Well we have made it harder for ourselves these last few games. It's going to be difficult to make it to the play offs but I really think we can.do it."

His recent form:

"I've been on the bench recently .That has been the manager's decision, I have not been injured. I was lucky enough to play in 90% of the games this season and it's just recently that I have not been involved. We haven't won the last few games so hopefully I can get back into the team soon. I have not even played for the reserves."

The Aussie grudge match:

"We play Reading on the 25th of April. Kevin and I have already told Monty (Steve Mautone) that he owes us a few goals."

Australian Soccer at present:

"There seem to be quite a variety of teams in the finals of the Ericsson Cup and that can only be good for the league in Australia, and Australian Soccer in general."."

What the short term future holds for Palace and Carl Veart:

"At the moment the short term future is unclear as we have to wait and see if we make the play offs with 5 games in 3 weeks. Mind you, you would rather be playing games than train because you probably train harder than you play. It is more psychological than physical I suppose."

Carl Veart: In and out of Crystal Palace side.

How it has been since Steve Coppell returned as manager:

"Our results show that we have not done as well since Harry left, winning only three out of the last nine games. Things really have not changed that much so I can not really put my finger on why we are travelling so poorly. We have been in the top six basically the whole season and it is only now we have dropped out."

Your future:

"I have another 12 months left on my contract then I'm not sure. I am still only 27 so I still have quite a few years left over here if I want, but like all things I will play it by ear and see what happens. Nothing is planned yet."

Aussies in Malaysia . . .

Alistair Edwards' Sarawak side lost 2-0 to Perlis on the weekend. Edwards hit the post again this week. Darren Stewart's Johor lost 2-0 to Ron Smith's Sabah at home. Scott Ollerenshaw (Sabah) and Milan Blagojevic (Johor) did not play. Scott has a dislocated elbow and Milan has not got his ITC yet.

Alistair Edwards

Brian Bothwell (Brunei) scored late in the game in their 3-0 win, his second goal of the season. Mehmet Durakovich's Selangor beat Kuala Lumpur 1-0. Selangor are top after two rounds of the Malaysian League.

Other Aussie news in England . . .

Aston Villa

Mark Bosnich was in trouble for storming out before the game against Derby, and has been reported to have been fined $30,000. In doing so he avoids a return to Tottenham, the scene of his controversial Hitler salute.

Middlesbrough

Mark Schwarzer is cup tied so he did not play in Boro's 3-3 draw with Chesterfield in the FA Cup semi final. He also missed their 1-0 loss to Leicester in the Coca Cola League Cup Final replay with an injury.

Coventry

John Filan has remained on the bench since playing for Australia in Hungary.

Southampton

The club's recent revival has seen Robbie Slater participate in a big way, starring in the clash with one of his former clubs West Ham, including setting up one of the two goals.

West Ham

The game against Southampton featured an 11 minute cameo from substitute Stan Lazaridis. The Hammers are now in danger of being relegated after looking to be clear of that battle just a few weeks back.

Charlton

Andy Peterson continues to play in goal at Charlton although on Saturday Barnsley put 4 into his net.

Swindon

Frank Talia is still not in the first team despite the side being thumped comprehensively in recent times. Talia has struggled with a back problem all season and has also had contractual disputes at the County Ground.

West Bromwich Albion

Shaun Murphy scored for WBA right on half time in their 1-3 loss to Manchester City on Saturday 17/4. Fellow Aussie, Andrew McDermott also played a full game.

Reading

This is the one club at which the Aussies are starring. They made the headlines in their 2-1 win as Stuart Lovell scored two goals in extra time to defeat Wolves. Andy Bernal's long ball into the box was volleyed home by Lovell. After six further minutes of extra time Lovell scored from Meaker's cross. Steve Mautone was again in the Royal's goal for the match.Andy Bernal has reached 21 penalty points and will be suspended for one game from April 14.

Wolverhampton

Steve Corica is out of the Wolves line up at present as they look to be losing out on second spot to Barnsley.

Bradford

George Kulscar played a full game for Bradford in their important 1-1 draw at Southend.

Bristol City

During the mid week match, Bristol City won 2-1 with Paul Agostino playing 64 minutes. For the first time in ages David Seal got some playing time, albeit 8 minutes, when he came on as a substitute.

Crystal Palace

Sat 12/7 Kevin Muscat played the first half of the 3-0 away loss at Sheffield United.

On Tuesday night Kevin Muscat played.at Oldham.

Doug Hodgson played a full game in the club's 3-2 loss at Port Vale.and in the mid week loss at Barnsley for 68 minutes.

Luton

David Oldfield again failed to score as Luton drew 0-0 with Blackpool. Team mate Tony Thorpe (and Oldfield's striking partner) continues to star for the side. The team's recent 3-2 loss at Walsall (in which Oldfield played the first 79 minutes) has been branded "scandalous and unprofessional" by Luton manager Lennie Lawrence.

Crewe

Jason Kearton's side lost a crucial promotion game to Bury 1-0 during the week. He had kept a clean sheet on 12/4 when Crewe defeated Bristol Rovers 1-0.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

By Sleiman Azizi BA (Sport Sudies)

AVOIDING THE DANGERS OF HIGH TEMPERATURES

The threat of thermal injuries to sportsmen and women is a real one. From sunburn and fatigue to heat strokes and death, high temperatures place extraordinary demands on the human body.

Athletes competing or training in hot and humid conditions must be aware of these demands and must make the necessary adjustments to their preparations in order to cope.

RISK FACTORS INVOLVED

There are a number of factors which can affect an athlete's ability to cope with the heat. These include, illness, drugs (including alcohol and caffeine), inappropriate clothing, lack of acclimatisation and lack of fitness.

However, the most influential factors are also the ones that athletes and coaches have the least control over, these being the air temperature, humidity and low (or no) wind speed. These three factors, in their various combinations, make it very difficult to predict just how safe it is to compete or train. The simplest method, and one that is available to ALL teams, is to note the temperature and whether on not any exertion by athletes results in extra perspiration.

HOW TO MINIMISE THE RISK

While the risk factors remain constant, by adopting some simple and practical strategies, they can be lessened.

1: Players should only wear heat permeable clothing. Cotton is by far the best for this with nylon being among the worst. This strategy allows the body to release its excess heat rather than trapping it, as some fabricsare liable to do. Also, where possible, do not wear tight clothing as loose clothing allows air to circulate over your skin which also helps to remove excess heat. This may be a problem though with strapping, soft braces and padding so take care.

2: During any breaks in play, trainers should be allowed to run onto the ground carrying cool liquids for the players. In an ideal setting, every 15 minutes or so would see trainers carrying approximately 150-300mls of water for each player. Obviously this is impractical during the game, but some effort must be made as it is very important for the athletes to replace the water that they lose through sweating. Another point is that each athlete should be fully hydrated BEFORE each match. A good indicator is to make sure that the athlete's urine is clear an hour before each game. A final warning. Do not wait until an athlete is thirsty before offering liquids as thirst is a last minute indicator of need. Make sure the athlete does not become thirsty.

3: Fans and ice-packs should be available on the bench. Where possible, the bench should also be shaded. Circulating air, (via the fans) helps tremendously in reducing heat stress and ice packs are invaluable in cooling down athletes. A towel soaked in water can be a fine substitute as can be a hose with a fine nozzle spray.

4: At least one doctor, preferably two, should be present for each team. During emergencies, trained staff can help make all the difference.

5: Players must be 100% fit before taking the field. Illnesses such as colds and viruses seem minor but they can have a devastating affect on an athlete in extreme conditions.

TIMING OF EVENTS

As can be seen, these measures are not too difficult to implement. However, it is most advantageous to all involved that games not be scheduled during periods of high heat and humidity. Games scheduled during the morning or, more practically, during the evenings benefit players tremendously, especially those from cooler climates playing in places such as Perth or Brisbane, where the temperatures are generally higher.

ACCLIMATISATION

Players can adapt to hotter conditions and these adaptions can take place within 4-10 days. Training in sweat clothes can help, as can heat chambers. However, care must be taken to ensure that athletes are adequately supplied with a constant source of liquids. Also, adaptions only occur if exercise is actually undertaken during the heat simple exposure does nothing.

In the Februray 18 edition of ABSW, the Editorial on page 2 addressed the question of heat and humidity on players. The heading was 'High temperatures - postpone games'. The argument was made that there is no sound reason to kick off in February which is the hottest month of the year in both Sydney and Melbourne. Remember the both NSWSF and Victoria's SF competitions had started by February 18. Sensibly South Australia commenced in April.

This was a piece to carry on this debate. If there are others wishing to contribute, then please contact the Editor. Players, physiotherapists, doctors or other medical workers' opinions and studies are welcome.

News in Brief . . . by BOB BROOKS

Perth Glory have really captured the imagination. The approach they have adopted to their initial year in the NSL is nothing short of brilliant. They have reaped their rewards with an aggregate figure of well over $1 million — the first club to have achieved this worthy milestone.

Last week they advertised on radio in Melbourne! What ever for? To attract fans to become their supporters in the Victorian capital and it succeeded. For $50.00 as a joining fee the new Glory fan received a cap and entry to all Glory games in Victoria next season plus, and this was most important, a ticket for last Sunday's crunch game at Somers Street away to the Knights.

Fantastic marketing! Home grown, innovative. Not picked up from the overdone USA or from Britain where away supporters are discouraged.

Hear that their Channel 7 11.05pm Monday TV show is winning its time slot — you beauty!

On April 1 of this year the Sub Editor and the Editor compiled an article entitled '20 in 2000'. Seems some folks took it seriously, failing to find the 'additional information on page 16'.

Val Migliaccio appears each week on a popular Soccer radio show in Adelaide. 5AA on the AM1395 carries the broadcast from 6.30-7.30pm on Sunday. Val read the article and carried it as an item on the radio! Ha! Ha! Gotcha!

Still, doesn't do to always take ourselves too seriously, does it?

Val Migliaccio and his co-broadcasters will be giving away three copies of ABSW each week as part of its competitions.

We were short of a report the other week on the Melbourne Knights versus UTS Olympic game. There was a good excuse. Dwyght Tuffnell had a car accident on the way from the first half at Lakers Stadium to Somers Street. That's the bad news.

The good news is that Dwyght was physically okay. His car was the worse for wear though.

The time is ripe to become involved in an exciting and challenging project.

The ground work has been done to follow through to the launch of a team in Sydney for everyone of all backgrounds to follow.

Two or three individuals are needed to put together a submission for such a team, to Soccer Australia. The idea would be to be ready for the 98/99 national league season.

Perth have shown the way with great excitement being generated through a team of a similar type. Crowds of 15,000-20,000 at each match is the aim.

Please contact Claudio Barbatto a 40 or more year resident of the Harbour City on 02 9744 6658 to be a part of this great venture.

ABSW was well represented at the recent 'Evening with Alan Ball' in Sydney. As can be seen from the picture Alan was very happy to meet John Economos, Stuart Jones and yours truly.

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

International Youth Tournament
June 29 – July 6
Canberra

1 • 9 • 9 • 7

KANGA CUP